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ABRAHAM . . . THE FATHER OF US ALL

A PRATT FAMILY HISTORY

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ABRAHAM . . . THE FATHER OF US ALL

A PRATT FAMILY HISTORY

Three Hundred Fifty Years of the
History and Ancestry of
the Pratts of Marion, N.Y.

by

Kenneth Charles Pratt
Tenth generation descendant of
Thomas Pratt of Watertown, Massachusetts

Oxford, Connecticut
1968

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This book of short and simple annals is dedicated to the memory of
Lizzie May Knapp and Osbert Alfred Pratt
by their six children

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Belchertown, Mass., Public Library
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Cambridge, N. Y., Public Library
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Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.
East Hartford, Conn., Public Library
Essex, Conn., Public Library
Fort Edward, N. Y., Washington County Clerk's Office
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New Haven, Conn., Public Library
New York City Public Library
New York State Department of Education Library, Albany, N.Y.
Oxford, Mass., Public Library
Salem, N.Y., Washington County Surrogate's Office
State of Vermont, Department of Vital Statistics, Montpelier, Vt.
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Vermont State Library, Montpelier, Vt.
Wayne County Historical Society, Lyons, N.Y.
Worcester, Mass., Worcester County Surrogate's Office

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Many people have contributed in many ways to this Pratt family history but no one has been more patient, understanding and long suffering than my wife, Ruth M. S. Pratt. With me she has traveled long hours, pored over lengthy records and typed reams of manuscript. Without her counsel and advice the work would have been incomplete. She still worries, despite all the evidence, about our not finding a recorded date for the birth of Mary Barton in 1742.

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ABRAHAM . . . THE FATHER OF US ALL

A Pratt Family History

Like Abraham of old, our progenitor was the father of a multitude—the pioneering people who helped subdue the wilderness of Western New York State and bring it to its present prosperity.

CHAPTER 1

ABRAHAM . . . THE FATHER OF US ALL

A Pratt Family History

ABRAHAM PRATT was the progenitor of seven generations along the southern shore of Lake Ontario. He was the father of those first sons and daughters who came to what was then the northern part of Ontario County soon after the former Indian occupants of the land had been subdued by General John Sullivan. How do I know? A long, long search for records of my family finally resulted in authenticating Abraham as the common ancestor of all of us who grew up in what is now Wayne County, New York.

There is a psychological postulate which says that man has great need to know who he is and whence he came. The instinct (if such it may be called) to know something about one's ancestry is a product of the evolution of the species; one of the things which differentiate man's behavior from that of the lower animals.

When I was a child, I knew only my parents and grandparents, with one exception. I also knew one of my great grandparents. Since I had neither uncle nor aunt on the Pratt side of the family, I did not have any close collateral relatives.

When I outgrew my rural school (Purdy District No. 5, Marion, N.Y.), I attended the high school in the adjoining town of Williamson. The year was 1916 or 1917. Here I encountered other children named Pratt. But it was half a century before I established their relationship to me.

This is not to say that I was totally unaware, even at an early age, that there were other people around who bore the name of Pratt. On the November day in 1912 when my great grandmother was buried in Ridge Chapel Cemetery I remember her son, Charles, talking to a man named Arthur Pratt, about the family. My grandfather told me that day that Arthur was the family historian and knew more about the Pratts than anybody. But I was much too young to pursue the matter with him. Indeed, I believe it was the only time I ever saw Arthur.

Perhaps had I remained in the area of my birth my relatives and ancestors would have become known to me long ago. But as soon as I had finished high school, I went away to college—to the University of Florida in Gainesville. I never returned except for a brief period of about a year and subsequent short visits to my parents.

At the University were several other students named Pratt. Over the years I have met people bearing the same name in almost every section of the United States. Some of them, I'm now convinced, were cousins of mine in varying degrees.

My father, so far as I could ever learn, knew nothing of his progenitors more remote than his own great grandfather. And by the time I became interested enough and had time enough to seek out ancestral records, there was no one left in my family who could help me out. I was depend-

ent upon our Bible records plus anything I might be able to dig up in town and county clerk's offices, old newspapers, census enumerations, local histories and the like. It was not until 1965 that I began to devote serious time to tracing my ancestry.

Starting with the Bible records,* I learned that my father's grandfather was one of the ten children of John and Mary Penwell Pratt. John had been born in 1785. His tombstone, found by searching the cemeteries in Marion, indicated that he died in 1871, eleven years before my father was born.

THE FAMILY TRADITION

There was a tradition which had come down through the years concerning the origin of the Pratts of Marion. When my father was eighteen or thereabouts, his grandfather (age eighty) had told him that many years ago "when the place was all woods" two brothers had come from Vermont and that they lived in a log house. The log house, it was said, had been the first one built between Palmyra and Pultneyville. It was divided in the middle for the two brothers, each of whom produced twelve children. In each family there was a set of twins. Years later, upon being questioned about another fellow named Pratt who might live in one of the surrounding townships, the questioner was apt to be told, "Don't really know him; his folks must have come from the other side of the house." So went the legend.

From this it seemed to be apparent that one of the brothers who settled in the log cabin was the 1785 John Pratt. Whence he came, except for the legendary "from Vermont" could be anybody's guess.

Connecticut, where my wife and I now live in retirement, has many, many families named Pratt. Connecticut, being many years older than Western New York, has more adequate records of earlier times. Since we were on the spot, it seemed like a good shot in the dark, in 1963, to look up some of them.

The towns of Essex and Saybrook seemed to offer the best possibilities. Both on the Connecticut River, they and their cemeteries contain many of the name of Pratt. For example, the Captain John Pratt House, dated 1778, in Essex is now owned by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. The extremely well-kept Essex cemetery contains many Pratt tombstones, some of which go back to the sixteen hundreds, (i.e., Sarah, wife of Nathaniel Pratt, January 25, 1723. Age 58. Joseph Prat *(sic)* May 11, 1740. Age 68). The public library was helpful with records that showed Lieut. William Pratt as first settler in 1645; that ten separate families of Pratts had come to Connecticut in the sixteen-thirties.

Somehow or other, discussing our findings during the winter months we decided we were on the wrong track. It seemed hardly possible that any of the Lower Connecticut Valley Pratt families were ours.

My stepmother, Grace Hall Carter Pratt, who had stimulated my interest in genealogical research, suggested East Hartford inasmuch as she had found reference to its records in the Syracuse Public Library in connection with the Pratts. It turned out that their material was very

*App. I

meagre. However, they suggested the Connecticut Historical Society across the river in Hartford as a possible source of further information.

THE PRATT STACK

At the Connecticut Historical Society the librarian referred us to a collection of manuscripts under the heading "Pratt." In it were hundreds of hand-written documents relating to many Pratts, most of them Hartford residents over the years. One of the records was a boxed collection of sheets in the handwriting of genealogist Homer W. Brainard.*

Brainard's record on the Pratts started in Oxford, Massachusetts, went forward to Belchertown, Pelham and Amherst, and back to Framingham, Sudbury and Watertown, all in Massachusetts. They contained a line of descent starting with Thomas Pratt, Freeman of Watertown in 1647; cited another Thomas as taking the Oath of Fidelity in 1652. One of the second Thomas's sons, Jonathan, had moved from Framingham to Oxford with his family sometime before 1724.

Among Jonathan's ten children was Micah, whose record (except for the year of his birth) was very complete in Oxford. Brainard then carried some of Micah's children forward to the aforementioned towns.

In the list of Micah's children were two Abrahams; the first was born in 1735 and died at the age of two; the second, born in 1740, had married Mary Barton of Charlton, Massachusetts in 1760.

That was all for the day. It had been a long and tiring one. On the way home we opined that we had gotten no farther in Hartford than we had in Essex—except that the name Mary Barton haunted me. Suddenly, at sixty miles an hour on the Interstate Highway, I remembered Barton as a family name. My nephew is John Barton Pratt III. His father is John Barton Pratt. My great grandfather had been John Barton Pratt. Could it be possible that the Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt of Oxford, Massachusetts were our ancestors? The chances seemed slight. There must have been hundreds of Pratt boys, dozens of whom may have married Barton girls in Massachusetts. Still, it was quite a coincidence, even allowing for the fact that Brainard's notes also showed that a David Pratt of Oxford had married a Mary Barton. This later proved to be an error in his transcription.

The next logical step seemed to be a review of Brainard's sources, the Oxford Vital Records. They go back to about seventeen hundred and have been preserved in printed form since eighteen-fifty.

Accordingly, in the fall of 1964 my wife and I made a visit to the Oxford Public Library. We found without difficulty the listing of Micah Pratt's children, starting with his first-born, Hannah, in 1733. The surviving Abraham had been born on February 26, 1740. (Brainard copied it as February 16, 1740.) His intention to marry Mary Barton of Charlton was dated December 6, 1760. We subsequently confirmed this in the Charlton Vital Records.

Five of the children born to Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt between 1760 and 1768 appeared

*Biblio.

in the record. But no one of their given names were clues to any of the nineteenth and twentieth century Pratts that we knew.

About this time my stepmother loaned me a list transcribed by Lillian Pratt DeBack, the daughter of the family historian, Arthur S. Pratt. It went back, on her side of the family, to Abraham 2nd Pratt, born in 1771. It indicated that he had named one of his sons Barton; that this Barton was a first cousin of our own great grandfather, John Barton Pratt. The inevitable speculation was that they had both been named for their grandmother's family. But though it strengthened a growing conviction that Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt were indeed our long forgotten ancestors, there was as yet no documentary evidence of it.

The last record of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt which we could find in Oxford was the birth of their fifth child, Micah, on October 17, 1768. The whole family simply disappeared from the town recordings and we seemed forced to conclude that it had moved elsewhere sometime after that last date.

But where? Brainard, while he had followed Abraham's brothers and sisters to other towns in Massachusetts, gave us no leads on Abraham himself.

The librarian at the Connecticut Historical Society had suggested that census lists often furnished clues in tracing ancestry. The first Federal Census had been taken in seventeen-ninety. I found a printed copy of it in the New York Public Library, not learning until much later that it is a standard work in many other public libraries.

THE FIRST FEDERAL CENSUS

The seventeen-ninety enumeration for Massachusetts offered nothing on whom we had come to think of as "Our Abraham." Neither did Vermont. But the volume for New York State disclosed that in Albany County, Cambridge Town there lived in that year an Abraham Pratt who was the head of a family of two free white males of sixteen years and upward; four free white males under sixteen; three free white females; no other free persons and no slaves. There was no indication whatever that this Abraham came from Oxford, or even from Massachusetts. But it just might be. Another listing, further down the same page, named a Micah Pratt as head of a family of one free white male of sixteen years and upward and one free white female. If these Pratts were really the Oxford Pratts, Abraham was then fifty years old; Micah twenty-two years old.

In the attempt to reconstruct the past from known facts in the present it was clear that my great grandfather, John Barton Pratt and his cousin, Barton Pratt, had been the sons of brothers. These brothers were by now well established from family records as Abraham 2nd Pratt (born 1771) as the father of Barton Pratt, and John Pratt (born 1785) as the father of John Barton Pratt. Thus, their father *could* have been the seventeen-ninety Cambridge Abraham; Abraham 2nd *could* have been one of the two males sixteen years or older and John one of the four males under sixteen. Unfortunately none of the family records told where either Abraham 2nd or John had been born. Hence, there was no certainty that they were sons of the Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt, late of Oxford, Massachusetts, and now presumably living in Cambridge, New York.

A thread, however tenuous, did seem to exist between Wayne County, New York and Oxford, Massachusetts in the person of Micah Pratt of Cambridge. It was based on a manuscript which we found in the Wayne County Historical Society at Lyons, New York. It is in the form of reminiscences of Frances Amanda Pratt Milham Wood and tells how the son of Micah and Ruth Thornton Pratt, Ezra by name, had emigrated from Washington County (Cambridge), New York to Sodus about 1813.

Further historical notes on Ezra's family indicated that Ezra's father was born on October 17, 1768, the very same date recorded for the birth of the child, Micah, to Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt in Oxford, Massachusetts. Besides this coincidence, the 1865 Census for New York State listed our John Pratt (at the age of eighty and living with his second wife) as having been born in Washington County, New York. These two pieces of information certainly seemed to strengthen the speculative evidence.

Thus we could, with some confidence, now place Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt in Cambridge Town as early as 1785, when John was born. This gave us a five-year start on the seventeen-ninety Census, but there was as yet no accounting for the dates or places of birth of three unknown males and two unknown females which it enumerated. So, an on-the-spot search in Cambridge seemed essential at the time.

Cambridge proved to be a complete disappointment. There were no vital records in the town, or in the county, prior to 1823, a date much later than that of the first log cabin between Palmyra and Pultneyville. Indeed, John Pratt had, by our Bible records, a growing family of eight children by 1823. We learned later that he actually had ten by this time, two by an unknown first wife.

ABRAHAM'S PETITION

Returning from the fruitless trip to Cambridge we stopped to search the Colonial Manuscripts Section of the New York State Department of Education Library in Albany. It turned out to be a real bonanza.

First we came across the original application for a grant of land in Cambridge which was signed by Josiah Gilbert and Abraham Pratt. The date was July 1, 1791. Further search revealed a testimonial to the goodness and honesty of the two petitioners, attested by the assessors and the constable and collector of Cambridge. This testimonial further stated "Their possessions (of the land for which they asked the grant) have been made seven years and upward . . . (They) have built houses and barns planted orchards and paid taxes for said lands . . ."

The testimonial, too, was dated July 1, 1791. By simply subtracting that "seven years and upward" it placed this Abraham Pratt in Cambridge at least as early as 1784.

In spite of the exciting possibilities however, the Cambridge Abraham still was not positively identified as the Abraham who had married Mary Barton in Oxford in 1760. It would be necessary, somehow, to account for their whereabouts from the time their son, Micah, had been born in Oxford, and this first reported appearance in Cambridge, a matter of some sixteen years.

By chance, we decided to go back to Worcester, Massachusetts. Worcester is the county seat

for the town of Oxford. Here, in the Surrogate's Office, we found the estate papers of Micah Pratt, late of the town of Oxford. The petition for administration had been signed by his sons, Abraham and Micah, on February 27, 1769. That at least seemed to reduce the gap in the whereabouts of Abraham and his family to about fifteen years.

Because some of Abraham's family (uncles and aunts, brothers and sisters) appeared in nearby Belchertown and vicinity, we were hopeful that we might locate him here during the intervening years between the now known dates in Oxford and Cambridge. It turned out to be a hopeless project, however. An Abraham Pratt from Belchertown had fought in the Revolution, but by no stretch of the imagination could he be identified as the husband of Mary Barton.

"FROM VERMONT"

More in sheer desperation than anything else we returned to the "From Vermont" legend to try to account for those fifteen lost years. We went back to Cambridge, which was still unproductive, as were nearby Bennington and Arlington. All three of these towns had been closely associated in early colonial history but not one of them contained a scrap of evidence for us. We did learn, though, that the State Capitol at Montpelier contained voluminous records going back to earliest times. Nothing would do but that we search these records for the years from 1769 to 1784.

Although we looked through hundreds of birth, marriage and death records which bore the name of Pratt there was not one which we could relate to our lost Abraham or his immediate family. The situation had come to a complete impasse.

It was not until some months later that we learned the 1880 Federal Census lists had been released on microfilm. This was the first Federal Census which required the place of birth of one's parents.

This 1880 Census seemed to present our best bet in trying to find out where Abraham 2nd had been born in 1771, shortly after the records on his father's family had been closed out in Massachusetts in 1769 and reappeared, if my speculations were correct, in Cambridge in 1784.

So we checked the 1880 Census. In 1880 Wesson Pratt was the only son of Abraham 2nd still living. His age at that time was seventy-eight. His enumeration showed that his father had been born in New York State!

Because we knew from family records that Abraham 2nd had been born on October 5, 1771, this definitely placed his parents in New York State only a couple of years after their records in Oxford had ceased with Micah's birth on October 17, 1768.

The battle for the identification of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt seemed won. We could now feel sure that these two were truly our ancestors of two centuries ago.

THE OLD MANUSCRIPT

We were completely unprepared for the corroboration which followed. The very next day after finally establishing Abraham Pratt as a resident of New York State in 1771, I visited Lillian

Pratt DeBack and her cousin, Martha Pratt Wood at Lillian's home in Williamson, New York. Martha brought with her an old manuscript of a Pratt listing which she had found in the original cobblestone section of the Pratt Homestead that had been founded by Wesson Pratt, her great grandfather.

There are no dates for any of the nearly three hundred Pratt descendants it contains. All entries are numbered chronologically; the parents first, followed by the names of their children. It is a system unfamiliar to me, but it may have been standard genealogical methodology of a few generations ago for all I know. In any case, it is wonderfully clear and concise.

Numbered one on this list is the name of Abraham Pratt; number two is Mary Barton; names of their children follow in chronological order. Numbers three, four, five, six and seven are, respectively, Deborah, Ruth, Abraham Jr., Mary and Micah whose parentage and dates of birth are all part of the Vital Records of Oxford, Massachusetts. Abraham 2nd and John are numbered nine and fifteen on the list; their dates of birth are a matter of family record.

Remember the unnamed males and females recorded in the family of Abraham Pratt of Cambridge Town in the first Federal Census? All of them are named in this list. Not only that but, save for the known dead at an early age, the names of the persons whom each of these children married are given, together with their sons and daughters. Many of the issue of the second and third and fourth generations from Abraham and Mary Barton (and even the fifth, in some cases) are given. All together, starting with the year of Abraham's birth, 1740, it is a voluminous and unique record of at least one hundred fifty years of births in the families of the descendants of these two ancestors. One of its later recordings is that of my father, who lived to 1965; a total of two hundred twenty-five years across five generations.

This manuscript of olden lineage is surely the last and most convincing document which connects the Pratts of Marion, New York to their ancestors in Massachusetts. Now, since Abraham is authenticated as the father of us all, what is his story?

ABRAHAM PRATT, FIFTH GENERATION AMERICAN

(1740–c1801)

Abraham Pratt's lifetime bridged the period between British Colonial rule and the establishment of the United States as an independent nation.

CHAPTER II

ABRAHAM PRATT, FIFTH GENERATION AMERICAN

ABRAHAM PRATT was born a British subject. His birth occurred in Oxford, Massachusetts on February 26, 1740, in a well-civilized area of what it had pleased the Kings of England for more than a hundred years to call the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England.

The site of Oxford, Massachusetts, was originally a part of the possession of the Nipmuck Indians. They called it Manchage. The first white men to come to the area were a band of French Protestants who established themselves nearby. Nearly two hundred years later a monument was erected "In memory of the Huguenots, exiles for their faith, who made the first settlement of Oxford, 1687."

In 1692 an area of eight miles square was granted to Joseph Dudley, William Stoughton and others. They soon after brought over thirty more families of Huguenots and set apart twelve thousand acres for their use.

The French settlers built a fort for their protection on a hill southeast of the present city of Oxford. The remains of the fort are still preserved as a part of their memorial. But the massacre of one of the French families by the Indians and the hardships and perils of the region induced them to forsake their lands. The entire township (with a single reservation to Gabriel Bernon) was conveyed, in 1713 to thirty-eight individuals, among whom eleven, at least, were inhabitants of Framingham, Massachusetts. By the time Abraham came along, both his father and grandfather (previously of Framingham) were well established citizens of Oxford.

The town could claim considerable sophistication in copying institutions and customs from the mother country. Its clothing, churches, education and systems of record keeping had been adopted across four generations in America. And Oxford was, after all, less than fifty miles inland from the seacoast where the immigrants landed. The western frontier was more than double that distance.

Abraham was probably born on ancestral acres in a colonial house of frame construction. His father is said to have located it "westward of the homestead" near "the little cedar swamp" on a road running north from "the old Charlton Road." What was thought to be its remains were still in evidence more than one hundred-fifty years after Abraham's birth, according to Oxford historians.

Abraham's early life in Oxford must have been typical of that of colonial children in many another well-settled community back from the seacoast. Self-sufficiency in agricultural pursuits was a must in those times and places; elementary education was a must; church attendance was a must.

Abraham was the fourth of the ten children of Micah and Mary Gale Pratt. The first two,

Hannah and Abraham, died in infancy. The third, Abraham's older brother David and a life-long associate, was born in 1738.

Within the next dozen years Abraham acquired three more brothers and three sisters. At the age of twelve he was the oldest of the eight surviving children of the family except for David, two years his senior.

Men grew up early in those days. It is easy to visualize the adult role which boys of twelve to sixteen played in a farming community in those times. Many books have been written on the subject.

VITAL RECORDS

The first public record of Abraham Pratt is the recording of his birth. This recording had been no hit-or-miss affair. For more than a hundred years Massachusetts had had a law requiring it. Public registration of births, marriages and deaths was established on September 9, 1639 and a further rule was made on November 5 of the same year requiring the publication of intentions to marry. These long-standing requirements stood the present researcher in good stead indeed.

Abraham in his childhood had two brothers who were his playmates and grew to be his peers; two-years-older David and Micah, two years younger.

The threat to Oxford of unfriendly Indians had long since passed by the time Abraham was born. The latest attack had occurred at the northwest outpost of Deerfield, twice as far inland as was Oxford, nearly forty years before. His grandfather's and his father's lands had been secure from Indian depredation since early in the seventeen hundreds.

But during Abraham's early manhood a new and wider threat appeared, the start of the so-called French and Indian Wars. The French in the Ohio Valley and in Canada, along with the Indians they controlled, began fighting the British for territory. The war became particularly fierce in the Lake Champlain region.

All three brothers, David, Abraham and Micah, saw service on the British side in the effort to protect themselves from the French and eventually to drive them out. Abraham himself was a member, in 1758 of John Chandler's Regiment for the invasion of Canada under Lord Jeffrey Amherst. Abraham is later listed as being in Capt. McFarland's Company on February 3, 1761, perhaps a mustering-out date.

Another historical note tells how, in 1760, Abraham's father Micah, learning that David was sick at Half Moon, hired a horse, carried provisions for himself and horse, and brought his son back home. The round trip took thirteen days. Among the expenses which Micah itemized for the town fathers was the cost of a gallon of rum. They allowed reimbursement of thirteen shillings, four pence incurred in getting the ill soldier out of danger.

With the French surrender of Canada, peaceful pursuits again became the order of the day. British subjects in America at that time were the freest people in the world, and in many respects more free than anyone today.

On December 6, 1760, Abraham Pratt's intention to marry Mary Barton was published simul-

taneously in Oxford and Charlton. During the decade 1760–1770 they had six children.* Whether they lived with Abraham's parents, Micah and Mary Gale Pratt, during this time is unknown but it seems likely enough because Micah established a brick yard on his farm and certainly could have used the services of his stalwart sons, David, Abraham and Micah. Asa, too was a grown man of sixteen in 1760 and Isaac, the youngest boy, was already eleven.

MAKING BRICK

There was a lot of activity and hard work connected with making brick in those early days. Clay of superior quality for the purpose was found to be readily available on the farm, and was mined for many years thereafter. It had to be dug, tempered, molded and dried. In the beginning the tempering, or mixing with water to the proper consistency, was done with the bare feet. Later, pits were built and oxen or horses tempered the clay.

When the individual bricks had been dried they were built into a kiln which was fired by charcoal, undoubtedly made on the home place. After "burning" for about two weeks they were ready to be used in building and sold at about that time for $5.00 per thousand.

The making of charcoal, in itself no mean task, took a lot of skill and constant attention. The best came from hardwood like beech, birch, maple, oak and hickory. The green wood had to be baked in the absense of oxygen to drive off the volatile components without consuming the solids. Today's charcoal, used mainly for cookouts, is made from petroleum by-products in huge retorts, crushed and then pressed into briquettes. But the Pratt boys of Oxford had to make their own retorts before they could make their charcoal.

The old time charcoal burners used primitive methods. They cut and stacked their green wood. Then they covered the entire pile with moist earth, leaving only a small tunnel through the middle. Into this tunnel was shoveled the fire, embers perhaps from an outside bonfire. Around the clock a watch had to be kept for small tongues of flame breaking through the covering. Any cracks emitting blue smoke had to be sealed immediately, lest the whole pile burst into flames and be consumed. After a couple of weeks of such continuous vigilance the fire was allowed to go out. When the shell was removed there stood a pile of perhaps a couple of tons of charcoal waiting to be broken up with axe and sledge into pieces suitable in size for firing the brick kiln.

I can report very little of David's career, perhaps because my primary interest was in Abraham. It seems apparent that he served in the Revolution from Belchertown, and it is certain that he purchased twenty acres of Abraham's land in Cambridge in 1800. This latter date is important, as we shall see later.

Abraham's brother Micah married Lucy Shumway on February 23, 1769. They moved to Belchertown, probably just before or soon after the marriage. Here he raised his family, lost his first wife, remarried and fathered eleven children in all. He died in Belchertown in 1830 at the age of eighty-nine.

One of Abraham's uncles, Jonas, lived in Ward (now Auburn), Massachusetts at the time of his

*App. V

death in 1798. His son, Stephen, moved on to Greenfield, Massachusetts. Jonas's lineage is the subject of *Thomas Pratt of Watertown, Mass., and One Line of his Descendants* compiled in 1962 by Eldon P. Gundry of Flint, Michigan.

We pursued no records of brothers Asa or Isaac, except to note that Asa married Susanna Bemis of Charlton in 1769 and that Isaac is listed as serving as a Revolutionary soldier from Oxford in 1775.

THE BAD TIME

Seventeen sixty-eight was a momentous year for the Pratt family of Oxford. More than half of its members were struck down by what seems to have been an epidemic. While not all the dates of death are recorded, the first of Abraham and Mary's children to succumb seems to have been six-year-old Ruth,* who died on October 25. Probably the next was four-year-old Abraham, Jr., who died on November 7. Two-year-old Mary probably died in 1768 close to the time when both of Abraham's parents, Micah and Mary Gale Pratt, were fatally stricken. Thus of a family of nine Pratts (grandparents, parents and children) only four remained at the end of 1768. They were Abraham and Mary, the parents; Deborah, age eight; and baby Micah, born only a week before Ruth died.

The tragedy must have been devastating. It certainly suggests a reason for leaving the scene of so much sorrow.

Abraham seems to have left Oxford the next spring, as soon as he and his brother, Micah, had taken care of their father's estate. Whether he may have sojourned for a while with relatives in Belchertown or vicinity, I have been unable to learn. He and Mary had a sixth child, called Mary 2nd, between the time Micah was born in Oxford in 1768 and Abraham 2nd was born in Cambridge in 1771. Six others followed in the next fourteen years. They were named Hiram, Jacob, Ruth 2nd., Darius, Huldah and John.*

When Abraham moved to Cambridge with his wife and two or three children, it undoubtedly followed explorations which had been made during the French and Indian Wars. Here was a broad, fertile, well-watered valley that held promise of prosperity on the far frontier. Through this very valley the colonists had pushed the enemy ever northward; through Forts Edward and William Henry, through Ticonderoga and Crown Point to Quebec and Montreal. It had now been free of fighting for a matter of some ten years. New England settlers were flocking to its arable lands.

Historians of Cambridge agree that the area began to be settled about 1770, though there are records of earlier individual arrivals. But finding such records of any but a few of the first settlers is difficult. We found none for Abraham Pratt. The well established customs of "back home" in the matter of recording vital statistics were impossible until adequate town governments had been established. And family records a couple of hundred years old are few and far between.

*App. V

There are, however, some unusual records of this family which have been preserved. All of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt's children are accounted for. Some Colonial manuscripts exist, and some land and mortgage records.*

Twenty years after Abraham came to New York State we find him along with a friend or associate, Josiah Gilbert, petitioning for a grant of land in Cambridge on which they had lived "seven years and upward." On October 4, 1792, they took a deed from John and Esther Bleeker of New York City for 422 acres. That same month, on October 27, Josiah and Abraham divided their holdings by simultaneous deeds, the one to Abraham being for 168 acres.

No records have been found to suggest the mode of living of this family on these New York acres for the last few years of Abraham's life. All of his children had been born by 1785. The 1791 petition said that "these possessions (of the land and its improvements) are all the dependence we have to support our large families on and the labour we have bestoed *(sic)* on the same (we pray) will not be granted to any designing person . . ."

By 1790 Abraham's oldest son, Micah, was married and the head of a household. I believe that Deborah and the second Mary were also married and away from home by this time. Abraham's family thus presumably consisted of seven children and their parents. Such a large family would require a fairly large house, even in those times. It may have been part log and part frame construction.

Abraham lived only eight or nine years after securing title to his farm in Cambridge. He may or may not ever have seen the rolling, wooded hills of Marion. We are sure though that his oldest son at home in 1790, Abraham 2nd did for he became one of its first settlers.

The extent of communications over long distances in those primitive days is a source of wonder to us who are used to bouncing messages off satellites and traveling the length of the entire country in the time it used to take to walk a few miles. But even at their slow pace, early communications were nevertheless effective. News from western explorers reached home in a matter of weeks or months. And people in the east were eager to take advantage of their glowing descriptions of opportunity on the western frontier.

Certainly the glories of the Genesee Country were topics of conversation east of the Hudson in the seventeen-nineties. Indian fighters had followed Sullivan and Clinton to the territory more than a decade earlier. Many now returned to settle the land. As they became established, friends, relatives and neighbors joined them.

ANOTHER FAMILY TRADITION

It is a matter of some speculation as to when the first member of the Pratt family permanently established himself in Marion. More on this will be told in the fourth chapter, but it is believed that Abraham 2nd scouted the Marion area in the early seventeen nineties, possibly accompanied by his fifty-four year old father. And, putting two and two together from family traditions, it is further believed that Abraham 2nd built his log cabin in Marion by or before the spring of 1795, returning to Cambridge in the fall of that year for his family.

*App. III

Despite the steady dwindling of Abraham and Mary's family by marriage, the old folks were still pretty active. By 1796 the majority of their sons and daughters had undoubtedly acquired wives and husbands. In that year, though, Abraham added eighteen acres to his holdings by purchase from Garrit Quackenbush, an adjoining land owner. Four years later, in 1800, he sold twenty acres to his brother, David. It may have been Abraham's last business transaction.

While the old manuscript of descendants of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt furnishes no information on dates or places, we know that Abraham was born in Oxford in 1740. His death in Cambridge is not recorded. However, we can come very close to it. The recording of the mortgage on his Cambridge property furnishes the clue.*

On August 9, 1802, Mary, his wife and Darius and John, his youngest sons, mortgaged to Hiram Pratt, an older son "all that certain piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the town of Cambridge aforesaid, *and on which Abraham Pratt late of said town resided at the time of his decease . . .*" (italics mine). It seems certain therefore that Abraham died between the date of his deed to David, October 3, 1800 and the date, less than two years later, of this mortgage.

Abraham the patriarch of the Pratt family, had lived a full and active and meaningful life of some sixty years. Parenthetically, a graphologist whom we employed to compare Abraham's signature on the petition in connection with his father's estate and on the Gilbert and Pratt petition for the land grant tells us that his handwriting indicates he suffered from a bad heart. It seems farfetched to me. Anyhow, his widow, Mary Barton Pratt, survived him by nearly thirty years, coming to Marion to live out her life with her children and grandchildren.

From the records that we have, it appears that our Cambridge progenitors furnished at least ten families for the new-found woodlands and swamps of Wayne County from their complement of children and grandchildren.

Half Moon

Half Moon Point is on the Hudson River six miles above Albany. It was named by Henry Hudson when he reached the site on September 22, 1609, more than eleven years before the Pilgrims landed at Provincetown. It is no longer on current maps.

Charlton

Charlton was established from the northwestern part of Oxford on November 11, 1754 and was made a separate town by Act of August 23, 1775. No amount of searching has disclosed Mary Barton's date or place of birth. She was probably born in Oxford, or nearby, in 1742 since her tombstone says she was eighty-six in 1828. She was certainly married from Charlton after the district had been set off from Oxford.

*App. III

ABRAHAM'S PREDECESSORS

The farther back into history one goes, the more deduction one does. Some Pratt genealogists have made good cases for their lines back through Norman France, and even Italy, to the time of the Crusades. I am content to stop at the shore line of Massachusetts Bay in the early sixteen hundreds.

CHAPTER III

ABRAHAM'S PREDECESSORS

RECORDS of the ancestors of Abraham Pratt were much easier come by than his own. Earlier historians had assembled and compiled them for future generations, where they now repose in conveniently accessible archives. Thus, once we had positively identified *this* Abraham Pratt of Oxford, Massachusetts as our own ancestor, it was a relatively easy matter to trace his predecessors back to their beginnings in America. If the detail of some of these records is not totally accurate it doesn't seem to matter too much after two or three hundred years. They seem to be authentic except possibly for such errors as can easily creep in through successive transcriptions and these often may be corrected by reference to original sources.

ABRAHAM'S PARENTS

The sources of information about Abraham's parents, Micah and Mary Gale Pratt, are Daniels and Brainard.* Brainard says that Micah Pratt was born between 1706 and 1710; that he married on November 3, 1731 in Watertown, Massachusetts, Mary Gale, daughter of Abraham and Sarah (Fiske) Gale; that he died in Oxford in 1769. His estate papers are on file in the County seat.

Micah and Mary Gale Pratt had ten children between 1733 and 1752.

They were:

1 Hannah, born June 22, 1733; died November 18, 1734. (Not recorded in Oxford)
2 Abraham, born July 19, 1735; died December 18, 1737. (Birth in Oxford)
3 David, born April 16, 1738 in Oxford. (Soldier in the French and Indian Wars)
4 Abraham (Our Abraham), born February 26, 1740. Married Mary Barton of Charlton [Int.] December 6, 1760; died Cambridge, New York about 1801
5 Micah, born August 15, 1742; married (1) February 23, 1769 Lucy Shumway (2) Dinah; died Belchertown, Massachusetts, 1830.
6 Asa, born July 27, 1744; married September 6, 1769 Susanna Bemis of Charlton
7 Mary, born February 24, 1747
8 Isaac, born June 27, 1749. (Revolutionary soldier)
9 Melicent, born August 15, 1751; died young
10 Lydia, born December 24, 1752

According to Daniels's account, Micah Pratt in 1733 bought of his father, Jonathan, half of his estate, which he soon sold to his brother, Jonas. He remained in the vicinity, however, since

*Biblio.

he owned land westward of the homestead near the "Little Cedar Swamp" and not far from the river and west of the north cemetery. It was described as lots number 139 and 140 on town records. A further description says that his house stood on the old road running north from the old Charlton Road, which ran on the north side of Town's Pond. The holding could probably be located today with a minimum of research.

ABRAHAM'S GRANDPARENTS

The sources of information about Abraham's grandparents, Jonathan and Sarah Gale Pratt, are Barry, Bond, Daniels, Brainard and Gundry.*

Barry notes that Jonathan Pratt of Framingham, Massachusetts, one of the three younger sons of Thomas and Susannah Pratt, married Sarah Gale of Watertown, Massachusetts. Bond identifies Sarah Gale as the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Spring) Gale and the sister of Ebenezer Gale. He says that Sarah was born December 12, 1681 and married Jonathan Pratt about 1700.

Barry lists only three children of Jonathan and Sarah Gale Pratt in Framingham. Daniels then picks up the history of the family in Oxford, Massachusetts and carries it forward to Jonathan's death about 1760. Gundry, who follows the line of descent from Jonathan's son, Jonas, while our line comes down through Jonas's brother, Micah, suggests that Jonathan was born about 1673. I believe this was too early and that the date comes closer to 1680. (See Abraham's great grandparents.)

While Daniels says he found no Vital Records for the Jonathan Pratt family, other documents did enable him, and later Brainard, to identify ten of the children.

1 Jonathan, born April 21, 1701 (Fram. Rec.); married (1) November 18, 1725 Lydia Phillips of Watertown who died May 1, 1729 (Watertown VR); (2) Deborah Coolidge of Watertown in Watertown. Jonathan died July 25, 1788; Deborah died February 9, 1793. Nine children were born between 1726/7 and 1754 (Brainard)

2 Abraham, born March 2, 1702/3 (Fram. Rec.). There is no further record of Abraham in Oxford, which suggests that he may have died at an early age

3 Sarah, born October 18, 1704 (Fram. Rec.); married September 3, 1724 Oliver Shumway (Brainard)

4 Micah, born between 1706–1710; married November 3, 1731 Mary Gale (his mother's cousin) daughter of Abraham and Sarah (Fiske) Gale of Watertown (Brainard). They became Abraham's father and mother

5 Jonas, born about 1710; died 1798 (Gundry)

6 Joseph, born about 1712; married (1) Sarah, daughter of Thomas Hankins (2) Catherine Read of Oxford (Brainard)

7 Lydia, married March 23, 1730/1 Jedediah Barton (Brainard)

8 Susannah, married February 14, 1739/40 Jonas Coller. Children born in Oxford (Brainard)

*Biblio.

9 Beulah, married November 24, 1749 Elnathan Beers of Leicester (Brainard)

10 Abigail, name included in father's will (Daniels)

Barry notes that the first emigration of importance from Framingham occurred in 1713, when a considerable number of families bought land in Oxford. The first date we have found for Jonathan Pratt in Oxford is from Daniels, who says that on May 15, 1716 Joseph Dana sold him one-fourth of the Eliott Mill "standing on Samuel Barton's rights." In 1723 Jonathan was a selectman of Oxford and in that year he deeded sixty acres of land to his son, Jonathan. In 1727 Jonathan, the father, bought land and a house north of and near Town's Pond. He later added to this estate which was for nearly sixty years known as the Pratt Homestead in Oxford, until eventually it was sold to Sylvanus Town, Esq., in 1786.

Daniels says Jonathan's will was approved February 25, 1760 (Worcester County Probate-Brainard) which would have made him in the neighborhood of eighty years of age when he died, if my guess on the 1680 date of his birth is fairly close. He named his son, Jonas, executor and his heirs, who signed receipts to the executor, were Jonathan, Micah, Joseph, Susannah Coller, Sara Shumway and Lydia Barton. His son, Abraham, was neither mentioned nor signed a receipt, probably indicating that he predeceased his father. His daughters, Beulah and Abigail, were mentioned in the will, but they did not sign receipts and presumably had both died between the time it was drawn and the date it was probated.

ABRAHAM'S GREAT GRANDPARENTS

The sources of information about Abraham's great grandparents, Thomas and Susannah Pratt, are Barry, Bond and Savage.*

Since no date of birth is available for Thomas Pratt there is some disagreement between Barry and Savage as to whether he was the immigrant from England or was the second generation in America. A careful analysis of all the published facts I have been able to find leads to the conclusion that he was the son of the immigrant ancestor, whose name was Thomas, too.

Thomas Pratt, the son, may have been born in England also, and brought to America as an infant. Or he may have been born in Watertown soon after his parents arrived. The first record we have of him is his Oath of Fidelity taken in 1652, five years after his father became a Freeman of Watertown. He had to be at least sixteen years old in order to take the oath, which would establish his birth in 1636 or before.

Barry lists eleven children for Thomas and Susannah Pratt of Framingham. Savage believes Barry overlooked one generation in Watertown. He says that Thomas, the son, first moved from Watertown to Sudbury and thence to Framingham and that part of the eleven children were born in Sudbury. From the land records, Thomas purchased a place not far from Gleason's Pond in Framingham in 1679 when he must have been in his early forties. Thus, by deduction, it would seem that most of the children had been born before he moved from Sudbury and that perhaps only David, Jonathan and Jabez, whom Barry says were the three youngest, were native to Framingham.

*Biblio.

Framingham was a comparatively old town when Thomas came to it, if we may accept his 1679 purchase as a date to go by. It was settled about 1640 and was named after the English home (Framlingham) of Governor Danforth to whom the first grant was given.

The sequence of the birth of the eleven children of Thomas Pratt listed by Barry is a matter of some conjecture, except for the first one whom Barry says was born about 1656. But there are further records of each of them, with the names and dates of birth of their children (except Abiel). On the basis of this information which is considerable when you remember that they were all born some three hundred years ago, I have "guessed" what I consider a reasonably accurate date for their births. The birth date of each one's first child furnishes some clue to the father's place in the lineup.

1 Thomas, born about 1656 according to Barry. Married June 5, 1681, Lydia Parmenter. Had five children between 1682 and 1717. Died February 6, 1741.

2 Abiel, born about 1661; married Daniel Bigelow. (I did not search "Bigelow" for her children, if any)

3 John, born about 1666; married Ruth. Had seven children between 1691 and 1705

4 Ebenezer, born about 1668; married Sarah. Had four children between 1693 and 1700

5 Joseph, born about 1671; married 1696 Hannah Provender. Had five children between 1696 and 1708. Died about 1747

6 Phillip, born about 1673; married Rebecca (widow) Newton. Had two children between 1698 and 1701. Died February 12, 1739

7 Ephraim, born about 1675; married (1) Elizabeth, (2) 1724 Martha Wheelock. Had five children between 1700 and 1718. (Barry supposes this was the Ephraim Pratt of Sudbury who swung a scythe for more than a hundred years, mounted a horse unassisted at the age of one hundred ten and died in his one hundred seventeenth year.)

8 Nathaniel, born about 1678; married Abigail. Had eleven children between 1702 and 1731. Estate settled 1749

9 Jonathan, born about 1680; married about 1700 Sarah Gale of Watertown. Had three children listed by Barry in Framingham between 1701 and 1704. Daniels lists seven more children of Jonathan and Sarah Gale Pratt in his Oxford History, none with specific dates of birth

10 David, born about 1682; married (1) Rachael (2) Sarah Bancroft. Had ten children between 1702 and 1724/5

11 Jabez, born about 1685; married April 22, 1714 Hannah Gale. Had three children between 1716 and 1720

Thomas Pratt died about 1692. The administration of his estate was granted that year to his widow, Susannah and his son, John. The inventory of his possessions, which amounted to £142.2 is dated December 14, 1692.

OUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR

The sources of information about Abraham Pratt's great, great grandfather are Barry, Bond, Savage and Brainard.*

*Biblio.

Thomas Pratt, our immigrant ancestor was certainly born in England and Bond says he probably came from London. Bond's supposition seems to be based on the record of Thomas Boylston who, from Fenchurch Street, London, embarked in 1635 at the age of twenty and settled in Watertown.

Bond continues, "It is evident from the County Records that Thomas Boylston was not a very exemplary husband or Christian, and that his friends in England had not full confidence in his prudence and discretion; as an agent was employed to purchase an estate for him in Watertown. It is not improbable that he had been a gay young gentleman of London, whose habits were not formed after the puritanical model, and not being a member of the church, he was never admitted Freeman. (In) April, 1650 Thomas Boylston (sued) Thomas Pratt for withholding money sent him by his uncle. John Sawin testified that in 1648 he spoke with the old man (the uncle) and he said he had assigned his house and lands in New England to him, Thomas Pratt, (in trust) for young Boylston and his children." The suit was dismissed.

Thus, it appears that Thomas Pratt was likely to have been Boylston's contemporary, which should have made his date of birth around 1615. Obviously the London Boylstons knew the London Pratts. There seems to be no other explanation for the trust claim cited above.

Watertown, Massachusetts was one of the earliest settlements of Massachusetts Bay. It was founded by Sir Richard Saltonstall and the Rev. George Phillips in 1630. One of its cemeteries has been in use since 1642. It contains mounds and earthworks thought to be the remains of a Norse settlement in the eleventh century.

The first mention of Thomas Pratt in the early Watertown Records antedated the suit instituted against him by Thomas Boylston by about three years. The record shows that Thomas Pratt took the Freeman's oath on May 26, 1647. He was probably in his early thirties at that time and is believed to have lived to be about ninety years of age, since Watertown's Vital Records show that Thomas Pratt's death occurred there, according to Brainard, on February 8, 1705/6.

Thomas Pratt of Watertown (late of London) may have had several children, but we have found the records of only his son Thomas.

A Note on Gale Ancestry

Because three closely related Pratts married three closely related Gales in the early days, it seems appropriate to outline the latter family's beginnings in Watertown.

The immigrant Gale was named Richard and appears in the Watertown Records as early as 1640. His wife's name was Mary. On December 2, 1661 he purchased of Richard Dummer the east or northeast half, two hundred fifty acres, of the Oldham Farm, some part of which remained in the possession of his descendants for many, many years and perhaps still does. His will was dated February 25, 1678/9 and proved on April 1, 1679.

Bond, who records the above information, lists six children for Richard and Mary Gale but we are concerned only with two of their sons, John and Abraham Gale. No dates for the birth of any of the children are recorded.

John Gale married on September 27, 1677, Elizabeth Spring. His family moved early to Framingham or that neighborhood. It is probable that he died sometime before 1695.

Among the children of John and Elizabeth Spring Gale was Sarah, born December 12, 1681. She married, about 1700, Jonathan Pratt of Framingham (our third generation); Hannah, Sarah's sister was baptized June 19, 1687 and married on April 22, 1714 Jonathan's brother, Jabez.

Abraham Gale married on September 3, 1673, Sarah Fiske. On October 11, 1682, he was admitted Freeman. Abraham Gale died on September 15, 1718; his wife died on May 14, 1728.

Bond lists sixteen children for Abraham and Sarah Gale. Among them are two named Mary. The first Mary is said to have died young. The second Mary married on November 3, 1731 Michael *(sic)* Pratt of Oxford.

Thus we find in the Pratt-Gale relationships that Jabez Pratt married his brother's wife's sister Hannah and that Micah Pratt married his mother's cousin, Mary.

"Huldah" as a Family Given Name

The name Huldah sounds strange to us today. Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt named their twelfth child Huldah. Huldah married Josiah Wright and had seven children, for none of whom I have found any further record.

I have wondered if Huldah might not be of Scandinavian rather than Teutonic origin, perhaps reflecting the Norse rather than the Anglo-Saxon occupation of England. My wife thinks it more likely to be Low Dutch, stemming perhaps from the long sojourn of the Pilgrims in Holland.

The first mention of Huldah I have found in this Pratt family was of a child born in Oxford, Massachusetts on March 1, 1739, the daughter of Jonathan and Lydia (Phillips) Pratt. She was thus Abraham Pratt's first cousin and his daughter Huldah's first cousin once removed.

Huldah, the daughter of Jonathan and Lydia Pratt, married (1) Isaac Town, scion of a well-known first family of Oxford. After he died she married (2) Samuel Bixby and resided in Oxford until 1831. At the age of ninety-two she went to live with her son at Bethel, Maine, where she died in May, 1843, in her one hundred fifth year.

OLD JOHN PRATT AND THE MARION COLONY

(1785–1871)

No one now living ever saw Old John Pratt, but his likeness still exists in the form of an old-time photograph in my possession. This word portrait is painted from the public and private records which are still available.

CHAPTER IV

OLD JOHN PRATT AND THE MARION COLONY

(1785–1871)

TO ME, born in the twentieth century, my great, great grandfather, a son of the eighteenth century, could hardly be anything but Old John Pratt.

John was born in Cambridge, Washington County, New York before the United States of America as an entity even existed. When I was studying American history in the 'teens of this century he was so ancient that he had been able to hear at first hand tales of the fighting in the French and Indian Wars and the American Revolution about which I could only read. His father and his uncles had been through them both. Yet he has become a very real person to me as I have attempted to reconstruct his life and times.

In my great grandfather's family Bible,* John Pratt's birth is recorded as having occurred on March 9, 1785, "the second day of the week." He was the youngest of the thirteen children of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt who had started their family in Oxford, Massachusetts in 1760/1, where the first five children had been born. By 1771 we find John's parents more than one hundred miles to the west, in frontier country at Cambridge, New York where at least seven—and probably all eight—of the remaining children were born.

John grew up on the family farm in Cambridge, part of the tract of 422 acres of "wast *(sic)* and unappropriated land" which his father and Josiah Gilbert had settled and eventually were to purchase from John and Esther Bleeker of New York City. His boyhood must have been an interesting one, with so many older brothers and sisters in the household. As he grew up, one by one they got married and established families of their own. Thus, by the time his father died, about 1801, only a few of them could have been left at home.

John matured and married early. His first wife's name was Liscon (or Liscian). No information about her has come down through the family except the names of her two children, Mahala and Horace. Both must have been born prior to 1809, because John's third child, Joseph P. (probably for Penwell) was born of his new wife, Mary Penwell Pratt, on December 21st of that year. All three may have been born in Marion, although John may well have married the Liscon girl before he left Cambridge.

John's was one of a rapidly growing colony of Pratt families in Marion in the very early eighteen hundreds. For the story of how that came about we should go back a few years in the history of the area.

Briefly (it is developed at greater length in the Appendix) the Genesee Country was opened to

*App. I

white settlement only after Sullivan's raids on the Seneca Indians in 1779. After that it took some ten years before the influx of easterners in substantial numbers began to take place. By the end of another decade, at the turn of the century, people were swarming to Western New York from New England.

The exact date on which John Pratt moved from Cambridge to Marion is now unknown, but it certainly was before 1810, since he is enumerated with a wife and three children in the Federal Census of that year. And Clark* finds a record of reimbursement to John Pratt "for contingent expenses of the Militia in the War of 1812, as audited and allowed by the Adjutant and Inspector General." I think the probability is that he came soon after his father had died and he had given a mortgage of his interest in the family property to an older brother. The mortgage bears the date of August 9, 1802.

John was not the pioneer Pratt of Marion. Nor, probably, did he come alone. His older brother, Abraham 2nd, had preceded him by perhaps as much as seven or eight years and was already an established taxpayer. Two older sisters, Ruth 2nd and Huldah, raised families in Marion. His mother, Mary Barton Pratt, is buried there. And his next older brother, Darius, is unquestionably the head of "the other side of the house" since he is the only other son of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt to record the birth of twelve children.

Whether any or all of these other four members of the Cambridge family emigrated to Marion with John it is impossible to say. But come they did. And certainly about the same time. Indisputable records made the deductions abundantly clear.

Perhaps the simplest method of detailing these deductions is to disclose the known facts about John Pratt's close relatives. They are sparse in some cases, voluminous and quite complete in others.

To start at the beginning, consult the family list of John's brothers and sisters in The Old Manuscript,**which is appended in its original form. Here we find that John's oldest sister, Deborah, is recorded as having married Elihu Ward, who fathered "a large family." There is no further record of any of her children. The next three children, Ruth, Abraham and Mary all died in early childhood. Thus Micah, by the time John was born, was his oldest brother.

JOHN'S BROTHER, MICAH

While there is no supposition that Micah Pratt ever came to Marion, except perhaps to visit relatives, known facts about him and his family support the colony concept of the Pratts of Marion. Micah is listed in the Oxford, Massachusetts Vital Records as having been born on October 17, 1768. As a very young child he was brought by his parents to Cambridge. By 1790 he had married Ruth Thornton, less than a month his junior. During the next seven years they had three sons, each of whom later were to come to Marion and raise families.

Ruth Thornton Pratt died soon after the youngest of these three sons was born, and Micah

*Biblio.
**App. IV.

remarried. The name of his second wife was Zephath, a girl whose maiden name went unrecorded. She gave Micah four more sons and four daughters. At least two of these later sons settled in Williamson and Sodus. There is some supposition that another son and one of the daughters also came to the vicinity but the record is not sufficient to say so with certainty. Thus Micah's significance in the picture rests on the fact that at least five and possibly six or seven of his children came to the Marion area where John had settled.

(The next to oldest of John Pratt's surviving sisters, the second Mary, is recorded merely as having married Samuel Carlisle with no record of issue and it is presumed that she never joined the other Pratts in Marion.)

JOHN'S BROTHER ABRAHAM

Abraham Pratt (or Abraham 2nd as he was called in the family) was the first of the Cambridge Pratts to settle in Marion. He was, indeed, the father of the Pratt colony. His history, both legendary and as a matter of record, is copious and complete.

Family records show that this Abraham Pratt was born on October 5, 1771, and further research indicates that the place of his birth was Cambridge. He was named for his deceased brother, Abraham, who had died in Oxford, Massachusetts in 1768, and hence was known as Abraham 2nd.

Abraham 2nd married a girl named Hannah McCumber after his older sister Deborah and brother Micah had established homes for themselves. It was probably in 1794. Their first child was Lydia, born June 18, 1795.

It seems evident, from family tradition coupled with the recorded histories of some of the first settlers of Marion that Abraham 2nd, possibly accompanied by his father, explored the area in the early seventeen nineties. Our own family legend says that the two Pratt brothers who came from Vermont lived in the first log house built between Palmyra and Pultneyville. Since two were built in Marion in 1795 by Henry Lovell and Timothy Smith, it must have antedated these.

The legend, still current in families of Abraham 2nd's direct descendants, tells how he set out with an ox-drawn sledge, accompanied by three other families, and traveled west through the forest in the dead of winter. It took him four months to make the trip to Marion. At the time the entire area contained only nine other families.*

On that long winter trail, the legend goes on, Abraham 2nd brought his wife and infant daughter. Identity of the three families who accompanied him is not definitely known but some speculation is possible. It is a matter of record that David Sherman came from Washington County to Marion in 1796. It seems plausible that the Sherman family was one of the party of four.

Family records in writing show that Deacon Reuben Adams came from Massachusetts by horse and sleigh in 1796, accompanied by his fourteen-year-old son, Jonathan Merritt Adams. It is easy to conjecture that he joined the Pratt-Sherman party on the trip. The name of the fourth family is merely a suspicion but because of its nearby land holding in those early days, I think it may have

*App. VIII

been that of William Cogswell. I believe Reuben Adams is buried in Marion's Upper Corners Cemetery, and that both Sherman and Cogswell are buried in nearby Sherman Cemetery.

The speculation is then that Abraham 2nd selected a piece of land on what is now Route 21, built thereon a log cabin in the early spring of 1795 or before, went back to Cambridge for his family and arrived with them in Marion in March or April, 1796.

The first public record of Abraham 2nd's residence in Marion is the inclusion of his name on the tax rolls for 1799. I have found no enumeration of anyone named Pratt in the 1800 Federal Census, but the second town meeting, held at Sodus Point in that year, shows the election of Abraham Pratt as road commissioner. Later, on March 6, 1804, he was chosen constable and collector and on March 20 he was appointed Lieutenant in the Militia. He was evidently well on his way to becoming a prominent citizen of the area when his brothers came to Marion.

Thus it must have happened that when John Pratt (with possibly his mother, Darius, Ruth and Huldah) arrived on the scene he was welcomed by Abraham and his family. I have tried to conjure up a realistic picture of the scene and it comes out like this:

Suppose John and Darius came to Marion soon after their father died in Cambridge. They found their brother Abraham 2nd with a growing family. Whether he was still living in the log cabin or had built another home nearby (for later he did live nearby) is unknown. But it seems reasonable to suppose that both John and Darius occupied this self-same cabin after they arrived. It was, or at least was soon to be, bursting at the seams. It seems probable that Abraham 2nd and his family, shortly before or shortly after, moved out and that the cabin was subsequently enlarged with a partition in the middle, thus providing for the two sides of the house, with their eventual complement of twelve children each.

Abraham's name appears in the 1810 Census with a family of eight children. The copy of a deed dated April 25, 1810 from James Maccumber to Abraham is on record in the Wayne County Clerk's Office. And the accounting of his estate is preserved in the Ontario County Surrogate's Office in Canadaigua.*

Abraham 2nd died at an untimely age. Family records say the date was February 6, 1812, aged forty years, four months and one day. His tombstone, still legible in Sherman Cemetery, is inscribed A P D F 6th 1813 A 40 Y 4 M (Abraham Pratt died February 6th, 1813, aged forty years, four months).** It seems to me that the slight discrepancy is an understandable one.

On March 4, 1813 ". . . Hannah Pratt, relict of Abraham Pratt and Darius Pratt, son of the said Abraham Pratt, late of the County of Ontario, deceased . . ." were appointed administrators of his estate by the Surrogate. Their subsequent inventory showed the amount of $1,085.90, a substantial fortune for a frontiersman of that time.

(The description of Darius as a son of the deceased evidently was an error of the court, inasmuch as Abraham had no son named Darius. His brother, Darius, was in his early thirties at that time. Abraham's oldest son, James, had just turned fifteen when his father died.)

*App. III
**App. II

JOHN'S BROTHER DARIUS

There are now no private records of the Darius Pratt family save the listings in The Old Manuscript. Our family legend, by the time it got down to me, identified him only as an anonymous one of two brothers who had come from Vermont to Marion. His dates of birth and death are unknown; I have not found his grave. Land records establish Darius as a resident of Marion by deed of February 12, 1816, although he must have arrived considerably earlier. Cowles* says that "Prior to 1812 Darius Pratt and Abraham Pratt lived on neighboring farms owned (in the eighteen nineties) by James Van Tassell and George Sweezey." Vera Curtis* identifies these farms as afterwards belonging to Edward Van Tassell and Albert De Right. While I did not find Darius listed in the 1810 Census, as were John and Abraham, he may simply have been overlooked, as Abraham had been in the 1800 Census.

The deed to Darius is interesting from several points of view. In it the location is mapped as ". . . that parcel of land situated in the southwest corner of lot number nine, in the third range of lots, in township number thirteen in the second range of townships . . ." Its eastern boundary is what is now Route 21. Its northern boundary is now called Electronics Road. Little Sherman Cemetery, where so many of my relatives are buried, is in the very northeast corner of the property. It lies almost exactly a mile north of the site of the original log cabin. A copy of the deed itself appears in Appendix III.

Darius married Phoebe Baker and raised a lusty family. Among the seven boys, there is a further record of only three. Zina married Harriet Peer but she produced no family. James married his first cousin, Olive Pratt, daughter of his father's brother, Abraham 2nd. They had four children of whom there is no further record. Sydney married his first cousin, Esther Allen, daughter of his father's sister, Ruth 2nd. Their two female children carried the line on down under their married names, See and Williams.

Three of Darius's daughters married and there are further records of the children of two of them. But only Lurinda who married David Peer and through her daughter became the grandmother of the seven Skillinger children seems to have left an imprint on Marion that lasted into the twentieth century—at least as far as I am able to determine. Whether the others died young or they and their progeny moved elsewhere I have no way of knowing.

JOHN'S SISTERS RUTH AND HULDAH

If we can rely on the chronology of the listings in The Old Manuscript, John's sister, the second Ruth, was older than Darius. She married Prince Allen and had ten children. Because one of her daughters, Lydia, married Preston Peer, son of her brother's daughter, Lurinda, and thus a first cousin once removed, and another daughter, Esther, married cousin Sydney Pratt, I have concluded that this Allen family was one of the early Pratt colony of Marion.

*Biblio.

Huldah, next to John in age, married Josiah Wright. Her oldest daughter, Ruth, became the mother of nine Mason children, a famly well known in Marion and vicinity, which suggests to me that her family, too, was a member of the Pratt Colony.

JOHN'S NEPHEWS AMOS, IRA, AND EZRA

John's nephew, Amos, son of Micah and Ruth Thornton Pratt, was born in 1791 and was thus only six years younger than his uncle. He is listed in the 1850 Census with his wife Corina (Phelps) and four children. The 1855 Census discloses that he came to Marion in 1835, but I think he lived in one of the surrounding towns much earlier. Two of his daughters, Juliet and Phoebe, married Fred Russel—not at the same time, of course. Juliet had two boys who were probably progenitors of twentieth century people of the name of Russel in Wayne County. Amos's son, Esmond Pratt, had two daughters, but I have no record of their married names.

John's nephew, Ira, as a member of the Marion Colony, left a stronger imprint. He was born in 1793 and came to Marion, according to the 1855 Census, in 1834, though there is a record which suggests that he lived with his younger brother, Ezra, in Newark many years before that. Ira's daughters married into the Egleston, Wake and Durfee families. All but one of his sons also recorded families in the area.

Due to the fortuitous recording of some of her memories, we know a lot more about John's nephew Ezra from his granddaughter Frances A. Pratt Milham Wood.* Ezra was born in 1797 and joined the Pratt Colony in 1813. He was the father of James Anson Pratt who lived in a square house on South Avenue in Williamson close to the turn of the present century. And Anson's son, Charles, was the father of Bertha Pratt, Mrs. Sydney Lookup of recent memory.

JOHN'S NEPHEWS SOLOMON AND ALBERT

John's sister-in-law, Ruth Thornton Pratt, died soon after Ezra was born and the first child of Micah's second wife was named Solomon. Solomon Pratt lived in the northeast corner of East Williamson. He married twice and had seven children. He was twenty-three years younger than John and outlived him by twenty-two.

Solomon's children seem all to have moved to far places: Weed, New Mexico; Lincoln, Nebraska; Cuba, New York; Munson, Ohio. This would perhaps account for my never having heard of his family in my childhood.

John's nephew, Albert, was a member of the Colony and lived on what is still known as Pratt Road in Sodus. He had six children who apparently vacated the vicinity and moved to distant places.

* App. III

OTHER PRATTS 'ROUND ABOUT

There were several other Pratts in the area in those early days, too. An unidentified Elijah Pratt bought land from Nathaniel Gorham; similarly unidentified is Joseph Pratt who purchased from Gideon Granger and Oliver Phelps. One, Aaron Pratt, settled on the northwest lot in the town of Williamson in 1808; another, Jonathan Pratt of Whatley, Massachusetts, settled in Ontario in 1811. Some, or even all of these may have been related through Abraham (the father) Pratt's uncles and great uncles, but such relationships are now so remote that I have attempted to trace none of them.

The Pratts who became Mormons in the eighteen-thirties are even more remote. Parley P. Pratt and his brother, Orson, were converts to Joseph Smith's new religion and came later than most of the Pratts with whom we have been concerned above. Parley had been a Campbellite preacher in Ohio before he came "back east" to join the Mormons. Orson Pratt was a mathematician and philosopher. He went to Salt Lake City with Brigham Young and became a leading figure in the Church councils. I've read the bronze slab embedded in the wall that surrounds the Mormon Tabernacle which commemorates his life and works.

JOHN PRATT'S CHILDREN

Our own family records do not even suggest that John Pratt was married more than once, nor do they mention either of the two children of his first wife. The first inkling came from the New York State Census of 1865, where he was listed at the age of eighty as living with his second wife, Mary.

When The Old Manuscript turned up it listed both of John Pratt's wives. Almost as if by magic, the "twelve children for each side of the house" checked out, identifying him and Darius as the occupants.

John was left with his two motherless babies when he was in his early twenties. How he cared for them, no one knows. Perhaps his old widowed mother helped. Perhaps he sought the services of the young daughter of his neighbors, Joseph and Rachel Penwell, whom they had brought from New Jersey to Marion as an infant. At any rate Mary Penwell became John's second wife in 1808 or 1809, when she was only fourteen or fifteen years old.

We have absolutely no information on John's two oldest children, Mahala and Horace, save the listings in The Old Manuscript; their births, their marriages and their children. Our Bible records do not include either of them; neither are mentioned in their father's estate papers. They must have been born very soon after John came to Marion. Likeliest dates seem to be between 1805 and 1807. Mahala married John Dunlap and had four children; Horace married Nancy Porter and had three. None of the names of these children rings any distant bell with me, and there is no further record of them. It is as if John had two separate and distinct families, for I have histories of all of his ten children after Mary Penwell became his wife.

While there is no date available for the marriage of John and Mary Penwell Pratt, their first child, Joseph P., was born on December 21, 1809. This seems to suggest that John and Mary were joined together in holy wedlock in 1808, or very early in 1809.

Joseph, the oldest child in our family of Pratts, first married Sarah Howell but she died without having any children. He next married Sarah Cruthers and had a son whom they named Hiram, presumably in honor of Joseph's younger brother, or of his uncle back in Cambridge. His third marriage was to a Mrs. Courtwright who produced three more sons and a daughter; David, Seneca, John D., and Rachel, the latter bearing the name of her grandmother Penwell.

Joseph Pratt moved, apparently with his entire family, to Michigan, presumably in the early eighteen-fifties. He was living in Williamston, Michigan, in 1874 when he was cited as next of kin in his father's estate papers.

John and Mary's second child was Catyann, born May 24, 1811. The third was Hiram F., born August 22, 1813. Records of these two children no longer exist, which makes me suspect that they may have died relatively young.

Rachel Maria Pratt was born November 10, 1815. She married Abel Brightman and had three children who were still living in 1874, none of them in Wayne County. A photograph of one of her sons, David, as a Civil War soldier, still exists.

Next in line were John B. (for Barton), and his twin sister, Mary A. born June 23, 1820. John B. became our great grandfather, of whom more later. Mary A. married Benjamin Wheater and had three sons and a daughter. After her husband died she remarried and was living in Williamson as Mary Weaver in 1874.

Sarah Emily Pratt was born November 25, 1822. She married James Colliston, son of a family of English immigrants in Marion, and they moved to Michigan probably at the same time that her older brothers, Joseph P. and John B., bought land out there. She is cited as living in Gun Plain, Michigan (no longer on the map) in her father's estate settlement in 1874.

The three youngest children of John's family, William S. Henry A. and Thankful Amy were better known to my father. These are some of the tales I have heard him repeat.

Uncle Bill, born in 1825, was like his brother, John B. a cooper. He also owned a farm in the Frog Harbor District of Marion. A party at his house one night included his nephew, Charlie Pratt and the new school teacher, Ida Emrill Cook, from Irondequoit. Ida forgot her rubbers when she went home and the next morning young Charlie fetched them to her. The ensuing romance culminated in their marriage and the birth of my father.

Henry A. Pratt, born in 1827, lived, until my father was seventeen, in Marion village. He was undoubtedly a farmer but he engaged in other pursuits as well. One of these was selling fruit and vegetables from his wagon to the householders in the neighborhood. (As a huckster, he was long before the current Madison Avenue breed.)

Henry also made ice cream in old-time, hand-turned brine freezers. During Palmyra Fair season he and his nephew, Charlie, would load up the wagon with watermelons and the freezers. Arriving at the fair grounds, they would set up early for business.

As the September sun beat down upon them, they had more and more trouble keeping their wares cold. The watermelons weren't a problem for they could be kept covered with thick horse blankets and withdrawn as needed without exposing the remainder to the heat of the day. But the ice cream was difficult. Every time a portion was dipped the balance lost frigidity. My grandfather told me how they solved the problem. They experimented by adding more and more corn starch to the cream mixture until you could hold a plate of it up to the full rays of the sun and it wouldn't

drip. Perhaps it made turning the freezers a lot harder, but it was worth it. (More than a hundred years later a very popular product known as frozen custard or soft ice cream depended for its consistency on the same high starch content which kept Henry's cream so fresh and frozen.)

Nephew Charlie's birthday fell on the same day as Uncle Henry's, August fourteen. As Charlie grew up and Henry grew old it became a birthday custom every year for Charlie, off in the northwest corner of Marion, to hitch up and drive into the village. Charlie prided himself on pampering a watermelon to ripen for the festive occasion, perhaps much as I now take pride in having ripe tomatoes from my tiny garden by July 20, my wife's birthday.

It was Henry who became, in 1874, the administrator of John Pratt's estate. The papers are on file at the County seat.

Thankful Amy Pratt was the tenth and youngest of the children of John and Mary Penwell Pratt. She was born December 19, 1829. She had a long and fulfilling career. I've heard her mentioned by my father more than any other of his numerous great aunts and uncles. A surviving letter to my grandfather is dated February 27, 1912 and closes with these words: "I remain as ever your old antie *(sic)*. T. A. Cronk," and adds as a post script "Give my love to your mother."

Aunt Thank married Hiram L. Cronk in 1852 and lived in Williamson for many years. She lost her husband in 1878 and in 1884 picked up bag and baggage, including the children, and moved out to Kansas. Her nephew Alfred and his family were in Douglass, where she landed. She lived in Douglass to a very old age and celebrated her one hundredth birthday by making her first flight in an aeroplane. She was the last connecting link between her father's generation which started with his birth in 1785 and which was broken by her death subsequent to 1929, almost one hundred fifty years later.

While John's family was growing up during the first half of the nineteenth century the wilderness which confronted him upon his arrival was changing with astonishing rapidity. The total white population in Wayne County in 1800 was only 1,410 persons. In the short period of ten years this figure increased to 6,575. By the time my great grandfather was born, in 1820, Wayne County was swarming with more than twenty thousand people. And in the next thirty years, by the time my grandfather was born, the population had again more than doubled—to forty-five thousand. Its growth has never since been so rapid. (During the next one hundred years the average increase was less than 130 persons per year.)

The major activity was, of course, farming—together with its commerce. Almost every family was sustained by the land it occupied and cultivated. A cow was half your living. Swine and poultry for meat and eggs were almost universal. Some sheep were raised for protein and fiber. There is no tradition of milking sheep in Wayne County as there is in provincial France but it's not beyond probability that some farmers may have had roast lamb for Easter and eked out their milk supply with the ewe when the cow was dry.

Wheat and barley and corn and rye were food for man and beast alike in early Wayne County. So was buckwheat, and flax provided both linen and oil. Potatoes were a staple. While bread was considered the staff of life, potatoes then were veritably the staff of bread. Fruits of many kinds grew easily and yielded abundantly in the gravelly soil. Apples, pears, quinces, peaches, cherries, mulberries were eaten raw, cooked and preserved. Bush fruits—raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants, blueberries—furnished variety in the fruit diet. Peas, potatoes, pumpkins, tur-

nips, parsnips, cabbage and salsify were grown. Wild dandelions and cowslips furnished greens in early spring. Butternuts, walnuts, sweet chestnuts, hickory nuts and beechnuts regaled many a family around a wintry hearth.

But the big cash crop of the era was peppermint. Peppermint is an aromatic plant that grew lush and green and full of oil on the low mucklands which abound in Marion and Williamson. It was first produced commercially about 1820. The completion of the Erie Canal in 1825 opened up further horizons for the marketing of Wayne County produce, and for many years thereafter our forebears' mucklands furnished by far the largest part of the world supply of peppermint oil. By 1841 it had become the chief agricultural crop, and with good reason. How else could a farmer realize such a handsome cash return for the cultivation of his land? Even the lowest yield produced twenty-five pounds of peppermint oil per acre, which sold at from $3.00 to $5.00 per pound. Many of the farmers with larger acreages set up their own distilleries to produce the oil. A ten-acre patch of top yield selling at top price was worth in the neighborhood of $2,500 per year in cash money—a large fortune in those days. Other farmers reaped their crops and took them to nearby custom distilleries, of which there were a hundred throughout the county, for processing.

With the demand for oil kegs and barrels, followed quickly with an even greater need for cider and vinegar and apple barrels, it is hardly surprising that two of John's younger sons became skilled barrel makers.

My father preserved some of his grandfather's coopering tools and I now have them for whatever interest they may possess for future generations. They include such things as a variety of awls; hand-made bits and drills, some worn down to a nub; trammel points; wood plows; a brace; a broad axe or adz; try squares, reamers, punches, chisels, a folding rule and the like.

Mary Penwell Pratt died at the age of seventy-five, in 1867. John followed her in less than three years. They left few worldly possessions. Henry swore on December 5, 1874 that the value of his father's personal property "does not exceed the sum of $100." But the progeny of this man of Massachusetts Bay stock and this woman from the New Jersey Colony multiplied prodigiously and journeyed to some of the far ends of the earth.

JOHN BARTON PRATT

(1820–1906)

Some facets of his life and times by one who knew only his wife, Nancy, my great-grandmother—aided and abetted by family records and recollections.

CHAPTER V

JOHN BARTON PRATT

1820—1906

WHEN JOHN BARTON PRATT, son of John and Mary Penwell Pratt, was born on June 23, 1820 Marion had scarce been settled for twenty-five years—yet the woods were full of Pratts. John's oldest uncle, Micah, had three boys with families in the area. His uncle Abraham 2nd's family, near by, had nine children. His uncle, Darius, also near by, probably had eight or ten. His aunts, Ruth Allen and Huldah Wright undoubtedly had growing families—and there were more to come from "back east" while he was still a growing boy.

Because John B. in the early days of Marion's Pratt Colony was one of the younger children of the man who was his grandfather's youngest child, John B. had a large number of older cousins. Cousins Amos, Ira and Ezra (Micah's sons) were indeed old enough to have been his father. Ezra homesteaded in Newark about the time that he was born. Ira lived with Ezra's family for a time. Amos was probably not far away.

Eight cousins, children of his widowed Aunt Hannah, were all older contemporaries. And there were cousins and cousins and cousins in the Darius Pratt, Prince Allen and Josiah Wright households.

Few records on any of these many cousins, save Wesson (son of Abraham 2nd) have survived the passage of time. Today I have found direct descendants only of Wesson's family in the area.

Wesson, born in 1802 and therefore eighteen years older than John B., was nevertheless probably closer to him than were his other cousins. He seems to have emulated Wesson in several ways. Both had a yearning for far places, though both returned to Williamson to live out their years. As early as 1827, when John B. was still a child, Wesson explored parts of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana on horseback. In his early thirties John B. too, took off for Michigan and made a later foray into Kansas. Both seem to have been intensly land conscious. Wesson established the Pratt Homestead on the Eddy Ridge Road by buying forty acres in 1825 and subsequently adding to it until it became one-hundred-ten acres. John B. was more of a speculator. He owned many farms in Marion, Walworth and Williamson at one time or another, as well as sections of land in both Michigan and Kansas.

Since John B. died when I was less than two years old, I have no personal recollection of him. Dad, some years before he died in 1965, entrusted to me his grandfather's Bible and album. It was these mementos which gave me a good start on the trail of our ancestors.

The Bible particularly was full of information about John B., his parents and his children and his brothers and sisters, many of whose names I had never heard before. The task became one of sorting them out and putting each into his or her place in the lineup, since the listings were

grouped mainly into the categories of births, marriages and deaths. The variety of penmanship, including that of my father which I could identify, was mystifying—and still is. A notation in pencil, "Grandfather 85 the 26th March/56" for instance meant nothing to me until further study disclosed the fact that Joseph Penwell had been born in New Jersey on March 26, 1771. John B. was of course a grandchild of Joe Penwell's but the writing hardly suggests that he made the entry, so it seems to me that it must have been written by one of his sisters, since the hand is a feminine one, or perhaps by his wife, Nancy, who was thirty-three at the time. The Bible listed all of the children of John Barton's parents but neither his half-sister nor half-brother. It also gave the dates for his four children, two of whom died in infancy.

The well-preserved, brass-bound album contained one hundred portraits of John Barton's family, contemporaries and friends. Most of them were unknown, even to my father. Compiled over many years, it shows faces of the very old and the very young, as well as many of his own age.

JOHN BARTON'S PARENTS

The very first one of these hundred portraits shows, in faded sepia tones an old couple whom I take to be John B. Pratt's parents, John and Mary Penwell Pratt. The photo was taken by D. N. Parks of Marion about 1860, when John was seventy-five and Mary was sixty-seven. In pencil on the back is inscribed the name "Mary Pratt." From similar research and reasoning I believe I am safe in identifying more than a dozen of the faces it contains.

Other relics of my great grandfather which have stood the ravages of time are some of his wood-working tools, several photos of himself and his wife, a crayon portrait which dates from their golden wedding anniversary in 1896 and a gold-headed anniversary cane of ebony engraved with the initials "J.P." This latter is reserved for my younger brother who is his great grandfather's namesake. It will undoubtedly go later to John Barton III when, in *his* old age, the cane will represent a life span of some two hundred years of Pratts.

John Barton Pratt married Nancy M. Hall on January 14, 1846. She was born at Scott, Cortland County, New York on October 9, 1823. (There is some slight confusion as to the year of Nancy's birth. The last digit in the Bible record has been altered. Through my engraver's glass it looks as though it were originally written "0" in ink and later changed to "6" in pencil. Since the 1850 Federal Census lists Nancy's age as twenty-seven that year, I'll settle for 1823.

John B. unlike some of his predecessors seems not to have gone in for a large family. Their first child, Alfred E. Pratt (Dad's Uncle Alf), was born November 19, 1846 in Williamson. Their second child, Charles W. was born in Williamson in 1850 and two daughters, Sarah Imogene (1858) and Addie Lilly (1862) were born in Michigan.

MICHIGAN

John B. Pratt, like his father and his grandfather before him, was a journeyer. With his oldest brother, Joseph and his sister Sarah Colliston he took his family to Ingham County, Michigan. The brothers had purchased a section of land there, and proceeded to settle on it.

Michigan in the eighteen-fifties was no raw frontier such as had greeted John B's father in Marion some fifty years before. In 1805 Congress had organized the territory of Michigan and had appointed General William Hull of Massachusetts as Governor. It was General Hull who surrendered Detroit to the British in 1812 without firing a shot.

Michigan was settled by New Englanders. Years before Joseph and John B. took their families thence, Vermonters and Nutmeggers had cleared and settled their land. William Poppleton and his family in 1825 went overland in a covered wagon from Pultney, Vermont to Troy, Michigan in thirty-two days. Troy was above Detroit, between Birmingham and Pontiac. John Pierce, preacher and mason, took his family in an open oxcart to Marshall, a hundred miles west of Detroit, in 1830.

The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 made the Yankee exodus to the Western Territory a rapid, if not easy, journey. The first steamboat on the Lakes, *Walk-in-the-Water*, appeared in Detroit as early as 1818. Daily steamer service between Buffalo and Detroit was provided by 1830 to take care of the flood of immigration when, in a single month (July), four thousand farmers went west through Buffalo. Nor was the peak of travel to be reached until later in the thirties.

In the early thirties also, George Matthews of Watertown, Connecticut, promoted the building of the Detroit and Lansing Plank Road. He was then given complete charge of its operation about 1833.

There were six Congregational churches in the Territory of Michigan by 1835. Two years later, on January 26, 1837, it was admitted as a State of the Union. By 1855, the State of Michigan listed one-hundred-six Congregational churches!

The mode of travel pursued by the Pratts is not now known, but it seems possible at least that they were driven to Palmyra or thereabouts where they stepped aboard a canal packet boat to be drawn by horses or mules to Buffalo. They probably embarked on one of the lake steamers, took a stage coach at Detroit and traveled northwest about sixty miles to their new land which I believe to be in the vicinity of Williamston, on or near the Detroit-Lansing Plank Road. If this sounds too romantic, they may as well have gone by train, for railroad transportation was also available at the time.

When John B. brought his family back to Williamson, he must have bought one of his several places listed in the Lyons Land Records. They didn't stay more than a few years. Joseph was still in Michigan and John B. wanted to return, but Dad said Nancy wouldn't hear of it. She didn't like the place—and small wonder. She nearly lost her younger son, and both her little daughters had died there, all within a matter of less than a dozen years.

KANSAS

So, instead of returning to Michigan, they set out for the plains of Kansas. I have no date for this hegira either, nor do I know any of the details. Their elder son, Alfred, was married to Ellen A. Phelps of Walworth on August 19, 1868 and his first child, Charles W. was born in Douglass, Kansas on April 15, 1871. So, it seems reasonable to conclude that they made the trip in 1869 or 1870. They may have been followed later by William S. Pratt and his family.

Kansas was even newer territory than Michigan had been. It too, had had a bloody beginning,

but for different reasons. Instead of the settlers fighting the Indians and the British as in Michigan, Kansas settlers fought the Indians and each other.

The Kansas-Nebraska Bill, sponsored in Congress by Senator Stephen A. Douglas, made Kansas a Territory in 1854. Prior to that date, Kansas was truly an Indian land, with scarce eight-hundred whites on the whole vast plain. Immediately after its organization as a Territory, it became a battle ground between slave holders and anti-slavery partisans. In 1856 the town of Lawrence was sacked and burned by pro-slavery people from Missouri. Only a few days afterward a Connecticut Yankee, John Brown from Torrington, murdered and mutilated five pro-slavery men. Lawlessness was rampant. Border incidents (between Missouri and Kansas) were frequent. Both pro- and anti-slavery people moved into Kansas in droves, the former trying to make it another slave state, the latter determined to make it free. The 1860 Census indicates that the population had grown within six years from the eight hundred of 1854 to 107,206 individuals. Kansas was admitted to the Union on January 29, 1861, and the struggles which had taken place there were of great importance in the breaking up of the Whig Party (thus electing Lincoln), in the establishment of an uncompromising anti-slavery party, in the sectionalization of the country and in the general preparation for the Civil War.

Indian raids and wars troubled Kansas from 1864 to 1878, by which time they had been moved by the Federal government to new Indian territory in what is now the state of Oklahoma. It is interesting to note that the Patrons of Industry was organized in Kansas in 1874, the movement later growing into the Grange, Farmer's Alliance, and the People's (Populist) Party.

How long John B. and Nancy stayed in Kansas is not known. But it was long enough to settle a section of Kansas prairie at Douglass, along with their son, Alfred.

While I never saw my great uncle Alfred, since he died in 1901, old tales and old photographs give some inkling into his character. I remember one of the stories about his getting lockjaw in Kansas and was about to starve to death when a local blacksmith knocked out his front tooth with a hammer and punch in order to insert a feeding tube. It was said his teeth were so tightly clenched that they could not be pried apart enough to force even a tomato seed between them.

Alfred seems to have suffered mightily, but he survived the ordeal. They built him a litter mounted on four bicycle wheels. So painful was his condition that he would cry out if anyone even approached his carriage. Yet a local medicine man, working with what we would now call physical therapy, mobilized and elasticized his muscles until he could stand being pounded with the fist on any muscular surface without flinching. Dad had for a long time a photo which showed Uncle Alf on his rolling bed of pain.

RETURN TO WILLIAMSON

For reasons unknown, great grandfather and grandmother returned again to Williamson, leaving Alfred and his family behind in Kansas to take care of the land. And take care of it he did. Word finally reached the old folks that he was selling it off as building lots in rapidly growing Douglass. Since they were getting along in years, they seem to have washed their hands of the whole affair, and perhaps of Alf too. He is reported in the family to have died alone in his bunk on

"The Strip" where he was running a sawmill. Kansas land records and perhaps Phelps family records would disclose more of his history, since he had three children and a wife who lived to 1918. But I doubt if I shall ever get to them.

Parenthetically, "The Strip," more properly The Cherokee Outlet, consisted of lands lying along Oklahoma's northern border which were not completely assigned to the Indians. Among these lands were nearly two million acres of fertile crop soil and the white people of Kansas in the eighteen seventies and eighties agitated for its disposal by the Federal government to private owners. The agitation was finally successful and President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation in 1889 announcing that the land would be open to homestead settlement at 12 o'clock noon on April 22. At that hour no less than twenty thousand people were on the border and when the signal was given, a spectacular race by buckboard, oxcart and horseback began. By that night the region which includes Oklahoma City had a population of ten thousand, their temporary domiciles the tents they had brought with them or their saddle blankets roofed only by the stars.

The last home of John Barton and Nancy Hall Pratt was the little ten-acre farm upon which The Mill still stands at the junction of Ridge Road and Ridge Chapel Road. Its history goes back more than a hundred years to the time when Newton Gibbs and his sister, Elizabeth Brock, held successive tenures. The story Dad used to tell was that, when Mrs. Brock was in her dotage her sisters, Iantha Mason and Josephine Beach made a deal with John B. and Nancy to take care of her in her old age. They were to live on the farm with her and have it after her death.

Mrs. Brock is reported to have been a difficult and demanding person. She walked with two canes. She fermented apple peelings and the like, occasionally getting tipsy on the resultant brew. She was so hard to live with that Nancy had to tell her off sometimes, so the story goes.

I do not know when the agreement was made nor how long Mrs. Brock lived after that. I do have the deed from her heirs to John B. and Nancy M. Pratt. It is dated May 8, 1900, cites a consideration of $1700, and is signed by several well known names in the area at that time: Iantha Mason, Josephine Beach, Daisy Wemelsfelder, Belle Thompson, Newton O. Gibbs and his wife, Mary C. Gibbs, William Gibbs, Mary E. Holman, Jennie C. Sayler, Charles G. Ashby, Ashley Beach and Durfee Mason.

The Lyons Land Records (Book 205, Page 505) show that Nancy, who held a joint tenancy in the property, turned it over to her son, Charles W. Pratt, in 1907, the year after her husband died. Charles, in turn surrendered it to John Okay of Marion, on April 1, 1920.

I might close this section of the Pratt history with a personal reminiscence. When I was a very small boy and while my great grandmother was still living, my grandfather on October 9th each year held a birthday celebration for her. He would roast a whole young porker, provide a huge feast, and invite all her friends to the celebration. The birthday party I remember best occurred in 1911, after we had moved to The Sanford Farm. After dinner someone (I believe it was Dad) hitched up and drove to the village to get the local photographer, a man named Cooper, to take a picture of the participants. I can see them still in my mind's eye, and the photograph itself brings back even most of their names. There is Lillian Pratt's mother, Lucy Stebbins Pratt; her grandmother, Martha Reeves Pratt; Mary Birdsall (soon to be my step grandmother); Evva Roberts; Rose Larkins; Hannah White or Melissa Morse; Nettie Baker with her infant daughter Blanche

or Viola; the Bill DuBurk family; grandfather; great grandmother and the five (at the time) of us. Eight others I can't recall by name but several of the faces seem still familiar.

But the photograph Cooper took which comes most often to mind, the one which I have thought about so many times over the years, is "The Four Generations." It shows my great grandmother, a very old lady of nearly ninety years; my grandfather with white hair and a quiet, white mustache, about sixty; my father, robust and with a big bushy black mustache at less than thirty and myself, looking slightly bewildered and wistful at the age of six.

CHARLES WHITE PRATT

(1850–1924)

Being some reminiscences and twice told tales of his life and times by his eldest grandson.

CHAPTER VI

CHARLES WHITE PRATT

(1850–1924)

WHEN CHARLES WHITE PRATT, my grandfather, was born two generations of settlers had occupied West Central New York, raised their children to manhood and now were grandparents. The virgin forest and swamp had been reduced by axe and fire; the land had been under the plow for half a century. It was a far cry from the scene which greeted old John and his brothers and sisters when they beheld the gentle hills of Marion at the culmination of their long journey from the mountainous regions around Cambridge.

Indeed, so crowded had Williamson and Marion become that John's oldest son, Joseph with his younger brother, John B. (my great grandfather) bought themselves a section of land in the new state of Michigan. Thence my grandfather's parents, John Barton and Nancy Hall Pratt, together with his brother, Joseph and sister, Sarah and her husband, Jim Colliston, emigrated to the new frontier. The year must have been one in early mid-century, since Charles was born in Williamson in 1850 and his eldest sister, Sarah Imogene was born in Michigan in 1858. Another sister, Addie Lilly, was born there in 1862. Both are recorded in the family Bible as having died in infancy at Lock (no longer on the map) in Ingham County, Michigan.

The Pratt families seem to have located at or near the site of Williamston, Michigan, on the Red Cedar River whose waters join the Grand at Lansing and finally find their way into Lake Michigan at Grand Haven. Williamston was on the Lansing-Detroit Plank Road, built in the eighteen thirties.

Several tales of the sojourn in Michigan have come down through Charles's recollection which provide perspective on the times and territory.

When my grandfather was very young in Michigan his life was seriously threatened by a frontier accident typical of the edged tools of the era. While reaping grain the blade of a scythe had struck one of his legs, cutting the flesh to the bone. He was carried to the cabin, the blood flow was stanched and he was left to recover in the dirt-floored room. Usually such a clean cut was self-limiting and the patient recovered without professional intervention. But not in this case. So the doctor was called, probably from Lansing, but it might even have been from Detroit.

In spite of all the medical knowledge and skill brought to bear, the young fellow's condition became steadily worse. Finally, in sheer desperation, someone suggested an ancient Ottawa Indian squaw who lived in the nearby forest. She had a high reputation as an herbalist and her folk medicine was said to be strong indeed. Nancy knew her well. They had become fast friends soon after the Pratts arrived in Michigan and she was particularly fond of their salt pork.

When the Indian woman came, she took one look at the dying child, and spat contemptuously,

"White man know nothing!" (This is the actual phrase she used, as handed down from father to son.)

The squaw took the child upon her horse and departed with a superior, professional air. She nursed the boy for days while the anxious parents waited. Finally, she returned him safe and sound to the bosom of his family. The infection was cured, the wound completely healed.

Charles carried the scar of the scythe on his leg to the grave. It was an ugly white mark slanting upward across the right calf. Ever afterward if that scar were touched, either by design or accident, all the strength went out of the leg. My grandfather said he fell down in a heap many a time when he backed up just right against a piece of brush, a low branch or a fence rail.

The custom of the settlers on new territory had always been, after making a clearing in the forest and erecting their shelters, to build a dam across the nearby stream and harness its water power to sawmill and grist mill. My grandfather, in my childhood, often told this tale of how they built the dam across what I take to be the Red Cedar River in Michigan.

THE RIVER DAM

You don't just dump dirt into a flowing stream and expect it to stay there while you build it up into a dam which stops or diverts the flow. You must first get a barrier across the stream against which you can drive poles into the river bottom. Only then can you fill in with brush and rocks and soil, and stem the flow of water.

If you find a tree the right size growing in the right location, it will make a fine barrier, once you get it into the right position. My grandfather told of how the Michigan pioneers found such a tree, a huge white pine growing fairly close to the river and tall enough to span the water when it lay horizontal. If they could have toppled the tree in such a way that it would fall athwart the stream from bank to bank the task would have been easy. In this case that simple procedure was impossible. Instead, they had to drag the tree into position so that it lay alongside the bank. Next, they had to secure one end of this huge boom to a stump. The problem now was to swing the other end of the boom across the river to the opposite bank.

It may sound easy today, but muscle power and the primitive tools to augment it were the only things the pioneers had. The settlers had brought with them, or perhaps more properly they had been brought to the frontier by their oxen. Ten span and more were available in this little settlement.

So, they hooked one end of their log chains to the small diameter of the boom, downriver, and carried the other end across the water by wading or swimming or propelling some kind of crude floating craft. Here they hitched it up to a twenty-ox team. When the oxen went into their yokes, the chain tautened across the river, the top of the great tree-trunk bent and moved. Slowly it sidled toward the flowing water.

Suddenly it rolled a slow half-turn and stuck fast against a boulder on the bank. The ox team was whoaed. Could they pull it off the rock? Was the snag big enough to splinter the trunk when the oxen really got down and dug? A better way seemed to be to skid the boom over the rock and let the upper end crash from its apex into the water.

So with much sweating and perhaps some swearing, poles were cut. With peavy and pry they were placed aslant the rock and under the log. The chains which held the butt end to the stump were inspected and adjusted. It would be fatal to the project if the boom slipped that mooring.

When everything else was in readiness, the oxen were unhooked and the whole team angled several degrees closer to the river. Then the chains were refastened and the slow pull was resumed. Up, up, inch by inch came the top of the boom, over the skids which shielded it from the rough surface of the rock. It reached the top, teetered for a moment, then fell with a resounding crash into the river. A shout went up. The feat was a huge success—so far.

There still remained the task of getting the top end of the spar out of the middle of the river and up onto the bank. In falling the chain had come loose at the upper end, but it was a relatively simple task to hook it on again, even though it was an in-the-water operation. So long as the far end was still securely attached, things were going well.

The oxen pulled the boom slowly toward the shore where a dugway had been built and paved with skids. As it came from the water and began to slide uphill, more and more power was required. At this critical point the combination of a single man and twenty striving bovines was equal to the task. At last the barrier lay athwart the stream, ready to hold the fill which would be placed behind it, dam the stream and harness its power to run the future mills.

If Charles W. Pratt's life as a boy on the Michigan frontier was adventurous, so was his manhood back in more civilized Williamson. John B. returned with his family about 1866, leaving his brother and sister in Ingham County.

FIRST SCHOOLING

Charles was sixteen years of age in 1866, and he'd never been to school! (This wasn't too uncommon in those days. Even Andrew Johnson, the man who was President of the United States at that time had never learned to write until his wife taught him.)

Charles may or may not have been able to read and write when he returned to Williamson. Certainly none of his ancestors had been illiterate. The signatures of his great grandfather Abraham and of his uncle Henry A. suggest more than a modicum of training in penmanship. What I believe to be his mother's writing in family Bible records is firm and cultured. He may well have learned his alphabet and ciphers at her knee. But the fact remained that at sixteen, a grown man, he had never been to a formal school.

This was soon remedied. He was a man of unusual energy and ambition, so he could not afford too much time for the classroom. But he attended the Salmon Creek District schoolhouse at the corner of Salmon Creek and Ridge Roads during the winter season. How many sessions he attended I do not know. I have the impression that he went through the curriculum like a whirlwind. But get an education he did, even though it led to no academic degree. He was a skilled carpenter and as such had to be able to read a rule, even if it wasn't of the slide variety. He was an architect of sorts, having designed and built a huge (for the times) mill. He had to know stress principles, masonry and frame construction, because the mill still stands, sound as the day it was completed. He was a husbandman of parts, in his later years making a living on ten acres of soil, breeding

Berkshire swine, raising bees, manufacturing and shipping apple cider vinegar to places as far away as St. Louis. His language was sometimes earthy, but it was competent in trade. I've heard him dictate business letters to his wife long before typewriters came into general use. Whether his preference for this method of correspondence to writing in longhand himself was due to poor penmanship, I do not know.

I first got acquainted with my grandfather when he was around sixty years of age. Family tradition has it that he pursued a high, wide and handsome course through the years of his prime. One of the tales tells of his running a sawmill single-handed at the age of seventeen; another of his splurging ten dollars on a fancy vest when ten dollars in cash was a month's wages. He refrained—somehow—from entanglement with any of the local girls, for he was a handsome man. He obviously had a taste for high-spirited, fast-stepping horses which carried over into his later life. He has told me about putting his horse in the hitch-barn in Rochester within an hour after leaving home. The distance is some twenty miles, and what with mid-twentieth century traffic, it sometimes takes as long to make the trip today, the better part of a century later.

Distance held a fascination for my grandfather, as it had for his predecessors in the family line. He had been hundreds of miles to Michigan and back in his younger days. Now he "went courtin'" not in the village, or to nearby places like Marion or Ontario, but to Irondequoit, on the Lake below Rochester. The object of his ardor was Ida Emrill Cook, daughter of William and Lucinda Fox Cook, whom he had first met at his Uncle Bill's. Her family went back to the very earliest settlers of the region. Her father's parents were John Cook, born in 1782 and his wife, Catherine (1785–1849). Her mother's parents were Martin Fox (1785–1865) and his wife, Hannah (1783–1868). Charles Pratt and Ida Cook were married in Rochester on February 1, 1877, by the Reverend D. W. C. Huntington.

For some twenty years after the marriage he tilled the soil of several farms, never more than a few miles from Williamson Village. His parents and his older brother, Alfred, had taken off again, this time for the plains of Kansas, but he elected to stay at home. The turn of the century found him on the Isaac Hoff farm in the northwest corner of Marion Township. It was the farm on which I was born early in 1905. My father ever after remembered the date by association with his activity of drawing logs for The Mill. Perhaps it stuck in his mind because he came home for noon-day dinner and was surprised to find me instead.

I never knew my grandmother, since she died in 1902 from "rheumatism of the heart." Her mother, Lucinda Fox Cook, had had an older sister, Fannie Fox (1812–1897) who married Isaac Hoff at the age of forty, in 1852. The Hoff family was apparently childless, since I have found no family record of any issue, and when they died grandfather and grandmother moved to their Marion farm.

My grandmother's uncle, Isaac Hoff, seems to have been something of an intellectual eccentric. It was said that he owned the only Webster's Dictionary for miles around, and that it was his pride and joy. Visiting farmers, more often than not, were wont to call upon each other in the fields rather than at home. One came 'cross lots one day to find the Hoff team of horses resting in a fence corner. No one was around and the visitor, perhaps fearing that the owner had been stricken suddenly, hurried to the house. There he found Mr. Hoff completely lost in his beloved dictionary. Seems that, while plowing hours before he had thought of a certain word, the meaning of which

escaped him, and he had come to the house to look it up. Trouble was, one word led to another and he had completely forgotten his work and the standing team in the lot.

A few years after my grandmother died in 1902, my grandfather sold the Hoff farm and moved to the Ridge Chapel farm to look after his aging parents. It was here that I first knew him. It was here that the annual birthday celebrations for his mother were held throughout the remainder of her life. It was here that the great triumph of his life, The Mill, was erected.

C. W. PRATT'S MILL

The Mill was a huge and mysterious structure to a small boy of six or seven. It was a true forerunner of today's split level construction. It was built against a great bank along the top of which ran the Ridge Chapel Road. The lowest level was laid up from grade. The ceiling height was about twelve feet. It was joined by a second basement level, just as modern split level houses separate the elevation of the play room or the family room from the garage. The main floor was erected at wagon loading height from the road. The fourth level was a large platform floor on which the hydraulic pumps for the cider presses were placed. The top level, under the gambrel roof, was a place for storage of lumber, spare machinery parts and other paraphenalia incident to the operation of power equipment.

The new era of the early twentieth century was no longer solely dependent on muscle power or water power. It went wild with fuel power, generated by the fossilization of plants which had lived aeons before. While it is true that my grandfather for the first fifty years of his life had been limited to the motive power of the ox and the horse and to the stationary power of the treadmill and the water wheel, The Mill opened up a vast new, and I have every reason to believe, an exciting source of energy. For the heart and soul of that great mill resided in a huge, twenty-horsepower internal combustion engine.

This engine was a fearful and an awesome thing. Its exhaust, though dampened by a muffler many times the size of those now on much more powerful motor cars, reverberated through the country-side and could be heard, it seemed, for miles. At least, as I returned from school in Williamson Village I could hear its bark from afar off.

It was a single cylinder, four cycle engine. The enormous, counter-weighted flywheels, one on either side, weighed a thousand pounds apiece and stood almost as high as a man. Once in motion, the orbital momentum of this ton of cast iron was tremendous. And starting the huge iron beast of burden was a task for a strong man. The process never failed to fascinate me.

On top of the compression cylinder was a priming cup. This was first filled with raw gasoline from a squirt can. The flywheels were then rotated forward until the piston was fully extended. Then the petcock on the priming cup was opened to allow the gasoline it contained to dribble into the cylinder. A short pause for partial vaporization of gas; then the engineer, grasping an upper spoke of the flywheel with his right hand and stepping onto a lower spoke with his entire weight, would give a great heave. This brought the piston back into the cylinder, compressing the gas-filled atmosphere. At the very maximum point of compression that could be thus achieved, the engineer stepped off the flywheel, let go with his right hand and simultaneously flipped an electric switch

with his left. The force of the resulting explosion drove the piston forward, sent the wheels a-whirling. Their counterweights carried the engine through its exhaust, intake and the next compression cycles.

Left entirely to its own devices, the engine would have increased its speed and momentum on each explosion until it would literally have torn itself from its concrete bed, to which it was anchored with long steel bolts. To prevent just such a runaway the engine was controlled by a centrifugal governor. This was a device consisting of a group of three or four iron balls spaced around a spindle in such a way that their speed would throw them outward. When the speed of the revolving balls reached a certain point it activated a mechanical linkage which interrupted the spark. Thus, the engine would run on momentum alone until its slowdown allowed the governor to throw in the spark again. Running empty, the exhaust would laugh several times between each bark of an explosion, but when under full load the bark would be incessant.

Power from the engine was transmitted by means of endless belts. It could not be started, of course, until it was free of any load. To provide for this unloading a friction clutch was coupled to the pulley attached to the near flywheel. The power train worked thus: Checking the clutch to make sure the engine was free, it would then be started. When it had attained its running speed the clutch would be slowly and carefully re-engaged. This would start a line shaft upstairs. On this shaft were placed pulleys of various diameters, their belts turning the machines to which they were attached. Speed of each machine was governed by the size of the pulley on the shaft. For example, the apple grater ran very fast indeed. Its small pulley was hooked to a large one on the line shaft. The pumps ran slow. Their large pulley was hooked to a much smaller one on the shaft.

THE FARM

When I was a boy my grandfather had the best things to eat! He grew them all himself—except one. His orchards provided the most luscious peaches—and apples long since lost to children. Roxbury Russets, Talman Sweets, Seek-no-furthers, Spitzenburgs, Sheep's Nose, Twenty Ounce. His grapes were bursting with juice. Concords, Niagaras and a big red variety, the name of which escapes me at the moment. On the two acres of muck land with which the farm was blest he raised carrots, beets, celery, onions and other garden vegetables. The peppermint crop of two generations before had now become a noxious weed to be pulled from among the vegetables.

Grandfather kept a cow or two and some sheep, as well as the pigs. It was rare fun to watch the spring sheep shearing on the big barn floor, though I always felt sorry for the sheep when the shears pinked their skins here and there.

Grandfather cured and preserved his own meats. From long experience he knew just how to brine and smoke a ham. He was denied the artificial colorings and flavorings that go into the making of commercial hams today, since he lived in what we now think of as a backward age. No chemical smoke treatment derived from the new petro-chemical industry could he apply. His meats were smoked for days over fragrant corncob smudges instead of being bathed and needled and soaked in our modern artificial flavorings and coloring. He didn't have, poor guy, even a horse hypodermic with which he could pump water into the collapsed arteries, veins and capillaries of a hog's leg, thus making a ham weigh twenty-five to thirty per cent more than it should.

One of his meat specialties was dried beef. You can buy dried beef (so-called) in the supermarkets today at the rate of three to four dollars a pound. But the product is rehydrated dried beef. It is all of sixty per cent water, put up in sealed packages of three or four ounces "to keep it fresh." Now dried beef will keep "fresh" in the open, uncovered, in winter or summer, for months and perhaps years—just so long as you don't add a lot of water to increase its weight. Grandfather's dried beef was so hard that you couldn't cut it with an axe. It hung on a string in the cellar both summer and winter. When he wanted some he shaved up enough for his needs with a block plane and hung the piece back on the rafter. After fifty years, with a certain amount of experience with canapes of many kinds, this dried beef remains one of my fondest gustatory memories.

On the sand (sandy-loam) my grandfather grew peanuts, sweet potatoes, asparagus; strawberries and bush berries. His apiary was nearby so that the bees could pollinate both the orchards and the gardens. He had an apricot tree in his dooryard, the only one I ever saw in that part of the country.

He also had a mulberry tree which must have been a sore trial to his mother because the ripe fruit leaves violent purple stains wherever it is tracked. You didn't pick mulberries like other fruits. You let them get dead ripe. Then you spread bed sheets on the grass around the trunk and shook with all your might. Down would rain the juice-laden berries. You'd have half a bushel in minutes; to pick them one by one would have taken hours.

The one thing grandfather didn't raise was bananas. But almost always he had them. In those days this exotic fruit was peddled from house to house by "the banana man." Grandfather would always buy a whole stem and hang it right side up (or upside down if you happened to know how bananas grew) from a nail driven into one of the hewn joists in the cellar. Since bananas ripen unevely after they are harvested, it was no trick at all to provide a fine, ripe fruit for his mother and himself nearly every day, with an extra one for me now and then when I happened to be around.

ELECTRICITY

The house at the corner of The Ridge and Ridge Chapel Road was the first I ever knew to have electricity. Long before REA (Rural Electrification Administration) made electricity possible in the back country, "juice" was pouring east from Niagara Falls. It provided power for the Rochester & Sodus Bay Line, whose trolley tracks followed The Ridge and connected the towns along it early in the century.

I well remember the primitive lighting installation, known as "knob and tube." The wires ran in the open, parallel to each other. When they ran through a hole, bored out of a beam or partition, a ceramic tube was first inserted to protect them. About every twenty-four inches a knob of porcelain was nailed to the wall or ceiling and the wires were attached to these knobs. (This is still one of the safest methods of wiring a building, but it is unsightly and most codes will not now permit it.) Between the knobs or at the termination of a circuit a porcelain light socket was installed. One such light bulb I remember was placed on a post alongside the sink in the kitchen. Nearby hung the mirror. (Dad bought this mirror at the auction of grandfather's effects in 1925 and it is now with other relics of the family.)

The lamp was lighted by a pull-chain switch and it was one of grandfather's favorite jokes when he was at our farm, two miles away down the Ridge Chapel Road, to stumble around our country kitchen at the approach of darkness muttering, "Where is that chain?" Of course we had no electricity for many years to come.

I still remember an occasional night spent in my grandfather's house, on the old rope bedstead with its corn shuck mattress topped by one of feathers. It was immensely lonely for a small boy, that small bedroom in the cramped quarters of the upper half-story. I would lie awake long hours, staring into the darkness and waiting for the next trolley to whistle for the intersection just beyond the house.

If a horse died on the farm, my grandfather dug a great hole in the sandy soil and buried it, but not before he had removed the hide. If he butchered a cow, her hide, too, went to the tannery. One of these horses was a big, red roan. When she came to the end of her days, he had her hide made into an ankle length greatcoat. It weighed a ton, but with its wool lining, its knitted wristlets and huge wombat collar, it would keep a man warm in any weather. I sometimes wore it when it was, I estimate, approaching fifty years of age.

We also had a pair of "buffalo" robes, made from the winter pelage of a couple of cows. Their hair was long and curly. They had come from jet-black cows with not a patch of white or color on them. Many a ride I had in the cutter with one or the other of them spread over my lap and tucked in around my legs and feet. Many a long winter night they kept me warm and snug in bed.

We also had another horse hide when I was a small boy. It, too, was black but it was much finer and lighter in weight than the cowhides. It had come from a high stepping horse named Little Dan (perhaps after Gen. Geo. B. McClellan's mount at the Battle of Antietam) which my father used in his courting days.

When my grandfather began to get old he went to the City and purchased a race horse. She had pedigree papers and a name I have forgotton. Her track record was 2:05, and while she wouldn't pull a buggy or a democrat wagon at anything like that pace, she was still the fastest thing on four legs that I had ever seen, outdistancing some of the early automobiles. Only thing she couldn't beat was a good strong boy with a bicycle on a hard packed road that went downhill. I was never allowed to drive her because all my training had been with draft horses or common road horses. When I wanted to slow down a horse I had learned to make a throat-clearing noise and rear back on the reins. Stopping completely was a mere matter of yelling "whoa," with a simultaneous back pressure on the bit. The race horse had been differently handed. The harder you pulled back on her reins, the faster she would go, and no amount of verbal command had any effect on her whatsoever.

My grandfather having been married a second time to an old friend of the family, Mary B. Birdsall, retired to the village in 1920. With the proceeds from the sale of the Ridge Chapel farm to John Okay (that's right, he spelled his name Okay) he bought an early-century modern house and two acres of land at the corner of Bennett Street and Wayne Avenue. It had a furnace, running water and a big cast iron enamelled bathtub. One of his first improvements was to build a new barn to shelter his old race horse. He had to buy most of its hay and all of its grain and the animal could not have been of much practical use, but still she remained the symbol of a more active and exciting life.

Grandfather died a lingering, painful death. A small growth on his face had been diagnosed by

Rochester specialists as a skin cancer. It was removed and for many days after he returned home his wife, Mary had to change the surgical dressing every day. Scar tissue formed, leaving a white patch where the growth had been and healing seemed complete. But the malignancy returned and he underwent another operation. This, too, failed to effect a permanent cure. I sometimes wonder what might have happened if the old Ottawa squaw who saved his life in his earlier days could have been resurrected.

Grandfather died in 1924. I was attending the University of Florida, fifteen hundred miles away, and was not notified. Mother wrote me the details after the funeral. He is buried in Ridge Chapel Cemetery, across from The Mill, with an older generation of his family.

When I started looking up old records and reading standard histories of the United States, my sense of relationship to past generations began to grow. As the details unfolded, it struck me with profound amazement that five generations of the Pratts of Marion have spanned the entire history of The United States of America and will continue to do so for some time to come. My great, great grandfather, buried in Sherman Cemetery, was born in 1785, four years before Washington was inaugurated as our first President; my youngest brother, Ernest is only forty-eight at this writing.

When I started studying the lives of the American Presidents, I found it hard to realize that my grandfather was born only a few weeks after the death of Zachary Taylor, that he was a man grown when Lincoln was assassinated, that he lived through the administrations of such long ago names as U.S. Grant, Cleveland, McKinley and Teddy Roosevelt and that he survived all but the last six Presidents. We are closer to our ancestors than we sometimes realize.

OSBERT ALFRED PRATT, LAST OF THE MARION LINE

(1882–1965)

As I write these notes on a cold and snowy February day memories of my father—particularly in his youth when I knew him best—come flooding back across the years. There could be many volumes of them. They would be humdrum and dull reading. So, to be brief, I will try to limit the recording of those memories to the few which I hope may interest or amuse or divert some of my contemporary relatives.

CHAPTER VII

OSBERT ALFRED PRATT, LAST OF THE MARION LINE

(1882–1965)

OSBERT ALFRED PRATT, my father, was essentially an early twentieth-century man. Although his life spanned the period from the late Victorian to the post-Rooseveltian eras whatever impact he had on his civilization—and he did have some—was made during the first half of the century.

To set the stage for this account of Dad's life, I'm going back a bit to describe the situation as it existed at the time of his appearance on the scene. I'll also go into his maternal ancestry later, but not to the extent that I've traced his father's lineage. That will have to remain for someone with more time to run it down than I have left.

Dad was born on September 15, 1882 on a small farm located on Tuckahoe Road in Williamson, New York. His father, Charles, had married Ida Emrill Cook of Irondequoit five years before. Where the newlyweds lived during the first year of marriage I do not know. But Charles bought the twelve acres on which Dad was born from Charles P. Moody of Sodus on August 21, 1878. (It was described as part of Lot 54 of Township 14 in the Second Range of Townships.) He paid Moody $75.00 cash for it and gave him a mortgage for a balance of seventy-five dollars.

Charles's and Ida's first child was a girl, born January 13, 1880. She was named Libby for Ida's younger sister, Sarah Elizabeth, who was always called Libby in the family. Her middle name was Emrill, like her mother's. This name is one which intrigues and baffles me. Except for these two middle names and the stamping on a single, dilapidated album of mostly unidentified photos, I have been unable to discover it anywhere else in my not inconsiderable research. Perhaps a reader will come forward sometime in the future with information which will explain it as one of our family's names.

Little Libby lived scarcely more than a year. She died on January 20, 1881 and is buried under a small headstone which stands in Ridge Chapel Cemetery between the two double monuments of her grandparents and her parents. Her's seems to be the first interment in the plot, save for an adjacent stone inscribed to Lottie M. Pratt, so far unidentified, who was born in 1875 and died in 1877.

Ida Pratt proved to be considerably less fecund than the wives of her husband's predecessors. His mother had borne four, his grandmother ten, and his great grandmother thirteen children. But Dad was Ida's last, though he was only her second. He grew up as an only child.

We have two relics of Dad's early childhood. One is a photo taken at about the age of five. It is a

full length studio portrait. His hair is curled in tight ringlets. He wears a blouse with ten buttons down the front, a knee-length skirt with a double row of buttons, an over-jacket and high buttoned shoes. With his feet crossed, he stands straight and tall and insouciant, with his right forearm on the arm of a settee and the back of his head held in the posing fixture to keep him from moving during the long exposure necessary in those days. I believe I can identify the place as the Cooper Studio in Williamson Village. The background and furnishings seem to be the same as those in later photos which carry the Cooper name.

The other is a snapshot I took last year of the little schoolhouse with the belfry which Dad attended. I do not know just where it was located in relation to the Tuckahoe farm, for it has been moved. Its present location is on the poultry farm on Salmon Creek Road until recently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lester Fisher. It is still in an excellent state of repair and was used by the Fishers as their egg house. It was identified to me at Dad's funeral by two of his old schoolmates, John Johnson and Olon Millman. I had never known either of them previously, but I do remember Dad's mention of their names years before.

Dad had more schooling than his father, but less than his mother. Both Ida and her sister Libbie had gone to Brockport Normal School, obtained certificates and taught during the eighteen-seventies.

I don't know the precise years that Dad attended school, but a likely guess seems to be from about 1890 to 1898. In later life he always deplored having to leave school just before he got his "Preliminary." I have the feeling his father (perhaps against his mother's wishes) insisted that he go to work on the farm, school or no school, when he was about sixteen. There may have been extenuating circumstances about which I have no knowledge.

TIGHT MONEY

Anyway, money seems to have been very tight in the Pratt family at that time. Saturday night was trading night in the village. The whole family went. It was the only social period between a long, hard week's work and The Day of Rest. Stores were open until ten or eleven o'clock. Here the housewives met, gossiped and did their weekly marketing, while their husbands went to the harness shop or hardware store for things they needed.

The kids congregated, in gangs perhaps, but not for purposes of plotting rumbles. They swapped jokes, boasted about the straight furrows they plowed, perhaps lied a little about the number of pigs in the old sow's latest litter. A mark of distinction on such occasions was to have a weekly bag of peanuts, roasted in the shell. They cost five cents per bag.

Well, where was Dad to get five cents a week to squander on peanuts? It added up over a year to more than twenty shillings. While that may seem like "peanuts" to us in today's currency, in his day it amounted to almost a whole week's work for wages at the going rate of fifty cents per day. But Dad managed. When the other boys went in to buy their weekly supply, he always had peanuts already in his pocket. He wasn't profligate with them. He didn't eat them "all to once." He saved some for next week's social event—and for the next after that. Indeed, he could make a bag of peanuts stretch eight or ten times as far as some of the other boys. He never went broke, and he

always had peanuts, though some of his contemporaries may have been embarrassed at times when they came up without the wherewithal to buy their weekly need for status.

Another example of my father's fierce sense of personal pride concerned conversation. In my formative years he impressed upon me the virtue of listening. He said you could easily tell how little a man knew when he was always talking. But as long as you kept your own mouth shut, it was difficult for others to suspect you of similar ignorance.

I don't know how long Dad lived with his parents on Tuckahoe Road. Land records would disclose the date on which it was sold but that would not necessarily be the date when they moved to Stony Lonesome, two or three miles away.

Dad's grandparents on his mother's side, William and Lucinda Cook, were getting well along in years toward the end of the century. Grandpa Will had been born in 1816, his wife in 1820. A photograph taken in the eighteen nineties shows them as a couple of very old parties, indeed. In any event, they made an arrangement with Ida and her husband to leave them their five-acre farm in Stony Lonesome in return for caring for them in their old age. (It is described as part of Lot 49 in Township 14 in the Second Range of Townships.)

William and Lucinda at the time of the transfer of the property had only one other living child besides Ida—her older brother, Osbert Luzern Cook. The record shows, in an agreement signed by Luzern in which he relinquished all interest in the property, that on the 10th of May, 1899, it was the intention of his parents to convey by deed the five acres to Charles W. Pratt "for one dollar and other valuable considerations." The deed itself is recorded in Lyons. I have looked it up.

It seems likely that Charles and Ida, with their seventeen-year-old son, moved to the Stony Lonesome place soon after the transfer. They did not stay for long.

THE HOFF FARM

I have no record of Lucinda's death. William died on September 8, 1901, a few months before reaching the age of eighty-five. His funeral was held from the Hoff farm in Marion, "the residence of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Pratt." Hawk & Mepham of Ontario were the undertakers; interment was at Union Hill Cemetery. I have been unable to find his tombstone.

To establish the Hoff farm as the Pratt residence in 1901, it is necessary to go back a few years. The Cook's older daughter, Ida, boarded with her uncle Isaac and Aunt Fannie Hoff while teaching the school at Frog Harbor in the mid-eighteen-seventies. The Hoff farm was situated south of The Ridge, on the town line road (now Arbor Road) just over the Marion line. (It is described as part of Lot 29 of Township 13 in the Second Range of Townships.) It contained fifty acres.

While boarding and teaching there, Ida Cook first met Charles Pratt at the home of his uncle, William S. Pratt, who lived practically next door to the Hoffs.

A few years later, Ike Hoff made a will. It was dated October 28, 1884. He had no relatives of his own, so he left a life interest in his entire estate to his wife, Fannie Fox Hoff. After her death the will directed that the remaining property be distributed among her relatives by dividing it into six equal shares.

Two of these shares were given to Ida E. Pratt, Fannie's niece and daughter of her sister, Lucin-

da Fox Cook. Another went to Frances Carr, Fannie's niece and daughter of her sister Maryann Fox Conley. The fourth share went to Duane Conley, Fannie's nephew and son of her sister Maryann. One share was to be divided equally between Willie and Clara Cook, children of the late Luzern Cook, Fannie's nephew and son of her sister Lucinda. The remaining share was available to any unknown heirs that there might be.

Fannie Hoff died on November 6, 1897, a few days before her eighty-fifth birthday. She had been ill for a long time and it was told in the family how her husband "waited on her hand and foot" during her later years. Ike himself lingered on for less than a year. His last days were spent at the home of Fannie's niece, Ida and her husband, Charles W. Pratt. He died on September 11, 1898, I suppose at the Tuckahoe Road farm. Isaac Hoff and his wife are buried in Union Hill Cemetery where their monument now stands.

With Ike and Fannie both gone, the property awaited division into the six parts specified by the will. The will itself was probated on June 10, 1899. Ida was appointed administratrix with the will annexed on the same date. But, dividing a fifty acre farm into six parts of equal value can become a difficult problem.

Finally, as the only means of settling the estate, one of the heirs was selected to sue all the other heirs and the people of the State of New York (for that sixth share). Duane Conley did the dirty work. He filed the action in New York Supreme Court at Lyons on June 15, 1900, nearly two years after the farm had lost its proprietor.

I do not know just how the suit was settled (it would seem to be easy enough to find out), but I do know that Ida and Charles Pratt lived on the old Hoff place in 1901. A good assumption would be that Ida and her husband bought out the other interests, perhaps with proceeds from their Tuckahoe and Stony Lonesome holdings. In any event Ida's father, William Cook died there on that September day in 1901. She, herself, died there on January 7, 1902.

To get back to Dad. After he left school he worked on his father's farm, but apparently not for wages. He has told me that the first money he ever accumulated was earned picking berries for his grandfather, who lived on the Bill Wager farm. This farm lies on the south side of the Ridge Road at the very head of Tuckahoe Road, scarcely a mile from where he lived.

Picking berries was piece-work, so much per quart. The pay was probably a cent per quart in those days. That short picking season in the summer of 1899 suddenly found Dad enormously rich compared to any standard he had previously known.

Dad told me one time, when we were going through the family collection of photos, that he had used the first ten dollars he earned picking berries to buy his first suit of store clothes. It was a cutaway and the outfit was complete with boiled shirt, stand-up collar and bow tie.

He lost little time in recording the event for posterity by having his photograph taken at the Cooper Studio in the village. It shows a serious, and I think somewhat taciturn, young man dressed in his resplendent best with a pearl stud highlighting the V above his vest. Some time before he died he wrote on the back "Taken about 1899; seventeen years old." To me it somehow suggests his great pride, and perhaps a touch of the arrogance he exhibited later on in his life. If he needed an excuse for it he had only to recall the ten dollar vest of his father which was mentioned in the last chapter.

Dad's grandparents. John B. and Nancy Hall Pratt, purchased the Ridge Road farm on May 8,

1900, after the death of Elizabeth Brock, for whom they had cared in her old age. I assume they went to live there the same year, a year or so before Dad's parents moved from Stony Lonesome to the Ike Hoff place.

HALL CENTER

After Dad's mother died in 1902, he and his father kept bachelor quarters for a couple of years. The Hoff farm was only a mile or so from the settlement called Hall Center. Without a church, Sunday School was held in the little cobblestone schoolhouse across the road from the Plyter farm. Besides the Plyters and Morses the Center included the Halls for whom it was named, in the big stone house, and Steve Franks's family at the foot of the hill.

Dad joined the Sunday School Class at Hall Center. Here he met the Halls, including their two young daughters, Iva and Grace. It was Iva who was perhaps his first girl friend. Many years later Grace recalls him as a tall, well-dressed youth who had a propensity for keeping his mouth shut. He was undoubtedly a very handsome man, and he had his moments, too. Steve Franks is reputed to have exclaimed, one evening when Dad careened down the hill and turned the corner on two wheels, "Here comes that damned Bert Pratt; thinks he's God with a bell on."

Dad did not marry Iva Hall. But as a widower almost fifty years later, he did marry her sister, the widowed Grace Hall Carter. Iva had died many years before, while she and Grace were attending the University of Rochester.

Another girl who caught Dad's eye and affection was his second cousin, Mary Conley. She was the granddaughter of Benoni Conley and Maryann Fox, as he was the grandson of William Cook and Lucinda Fox. Mary had come up from Randolph, New York in the Southern Tier a few years after her grand aunt Fannie Fox Hoff died, to make a record of the Fox family relatives. She probably stayed with Charlie Pratt and her cousin Ida, whose family included their only son. Dad seems to have been mightily smitten and perhaps never quite got over it for in later years he always spoke of Mary with particular affection. Some of this affection seems, indeed, to have been transferred after Mary's death to her much younger sister, Lois Conley Millspaw.

The third one of Dad's early girl friends was Maud, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Love, who lived not far from the schoolhouse in Purdy District No. 5. They went socializing together, apparently for some time. Resorts were no more than an hour or two away behind a fast-stepping horse. Saturday night at Palmyra always provided entertainment. Canandaigua, at the foot of the Lake was exciting, with its excursion boat and photo gallery. Pultneyville wasn't much, but driving there and back on a warm summer night could be very pleasant. Sodus Point and Sea Breeze were more up-to-date, but they were farther away. And the great Palmyra Fair, held annually after haying time, was always a stellar attraction.

But Maud Love married George Mason. Dad sought farther.

He found young Lizzie Knapp, daughter of Charles H. and Mary S. Knapp. She lived with her parents and her two older half-sisters in the cobblestone house which still stands near the intersection of Sherwood and Hanagan Roads, east of Walworth Village.

Just how long Dad courted my mother, I do not know. He showed me once the hill he tried to

get over one winter's night with his horse and cutter. Finding the snow too deep, he blanketed Little Dan, tied him to a tree and floundered the last half mile on foot to the cheery warmth of Charlie Knapp's fireside.

Dad was twenty-two and his bride was twenty-four when they were married on June 22, 1904. They spent their honeymoon at Canandaigua. When we kids were little they used to delight in telling us the horrible story of how they were almost drowned in the angry waters of Canandaigua Lake. Seems that one of their nuptial delights had been the anticipation of a voyage around the lake. They boarded in high spirits, got half-way down the lake, when it was suddenly discovered that the boat had sprung a leak. Of course there was pandemonium among the passengers. Of course heroic efforts were made by the crew. Of course the pilot turned around, called for full speed from the engineer and drove the deck hands manning the pumps to a sheer frenzy of activity. Of course they made it back to safety, or these apocryphal words would not now be written. Both bride and groom got their feet wet wading through the water from the rapidly settling boat to the dry land of the dock.

One of the more interesting photos of this era which survives is a tintype which shows Dad and Mother against a studio backdrop of Canandaigua Lake. The water stretches far behind them. In the middle distance is a small craft with bright sails, and they seem to be sitting among the very reeds and rushes which grow along the near shore. I'm sure it was taken on their honeymoon.

When Dad brought Mother home to the Hoff farm, the house must have taken on a new look with an energetic woman in it for the first time in more than two years. It's easy to imagine her washing woodwork, cleaning pantry and cellar, getting rid of rubbish and generally setting things to rights while her new husband and his father planted and harvested the crops. An oft-told anecdote illustrates at least a part of the activity during Dad's first year of marriage.

Dad's grandfather, John B. was living on The Ridge in 1904. He was eighty-four years old at the time, and his only heir was his son, Charles, who would soon inherit the place. Charles, in his early fifties, was still in his prime. Together, they conceived the idea of The Mill. The old man could hardly have contributed more than his experience of a lifetime of working with wood and the use of his carpenter and cooperage tools (some of which still survive), but his son and grandson were rarin' to go. Thus it happened that they busied themselves during that fall and winter in cutting logs for the mill timbers.

THE SYCAMORE LOG

The anecdote concerns a giant sycamore tree felled, I believe, on George Starks's farm. It was so big that when they had sawed it up into four or five twelve-foot logs and had drawn the top ones to the sawmill in Williamson, they left the butt log on the ground where it fell. It worried Dad—all that good timber going to waste. He knew it was too big to be rolled up the skids and onto a lumber wagon, and he knew the sawmill could cut through only part way to its center. One day, more as a joke than anything else, he asked the sawyer, "Say, how big a log can you handle here?" The man replied, Dad thought bruskly, "I can saw any log *you* can draw in here."

What a challenge to a young man just reaching the peak of his physical strength! Dad thought it

over for a few weeks while that sycamore butt lay in the woods throughout the autumn and early winter. It could lay there forever, so far as Charlie was concerned. But one morning when there was snow on the ground, Dad hitched the team to the bobs and went over to look at it. He figured and figured. He shoveled away the snow and fallen leaves to measure the lay of the land. And he discovered a stump downhill just about far enough away to stop a short roll properly—if he could get one started.

Dad had a wonderful eye for distance. He could estimate the length of a board to an inch, merely by looking at it. He'd come within an inch or so on a twelve-foot cut before ever putting a rule on it.

When he found the stump downhill of the log, he calculated just how high up it would be likely to hit the cylindrical log when they came in contact. This was mighty important in placing the sleigh runners, for the center of gravity of the log had to be exactly in the center of the sleigh bed when it came to a stop against the stump. If the sleigh were placed too close to the log, it would overbalance and hang up, which meant that Dad lost his bobs. If it were placed too close to the stump the same thing might happen on the other side, or indeed the log might, if it attained enough momentum, roll right over the top of the stump. It was a real ticklish situation.

Dad placed the bobs precisely. He unhooked the horses. He drove his log hook into the opposite side of the log, about half-way down and slightly off-center to equalize the difference in weight because of the taper. Then he took his log chain, hitched his evener for a downhill pull, and ran it back to the hook. He started the team slow and easy. The log refused to budge. It was frozen solidly to the ground. He barked at the horses. They squatted. But still the log would not come loose.

Well, this wasn't getting anywhere. Maybe the log *was* too big to be hauled. At least, two other logs half the size would be much easier to handle and would yield practically as much lumber. But Dad was determined. He backed the horses, drove out the hook, replaced it nearer the top of the log where it would give him more purchase, and tried again. This time, by alternately pulling hard and slackening off, he managed to jockey the log loose from the frozen ground.

Then he had to reset the hook to start a roll. The first setting gave him three or four inches, the next a little more. By carefully gauging the amount of roll from the setting of the hook, he finally got the log to the very apex of a free roll. Here, one false step could easily mean disaster, and even death.

But the whole operation came out fine. Getting the horses out of the way, Dad was able to nudge the log over the apex. He sank his peavy into the underside and gave a mighty heave. Slowly it started to descend the couple of feet toward the waiting bobs. It picked up speed as it went. Finally, it landed right in the middle of the bed and stopped there, with a solid thump against the stump which barred its further roll.

Dad was pretty tired by this time, and it was getting toward noon. So, he left the sleigh with its loaded log and walked his team over home to the dinner that Mother had waiting. Figured he'd already done a good day's work.

Two or three days later, it having snowed enough for good sleighing in the meantime, he went back to the woods. The log was still there.

He hooked on the team, piled his horse blankets atop the seven-foot butt, and climbed aboard. There was a little difficulty in starting the load, but once the runners hit the new snow, all was smooth going.

Dad hauled that log out of the woods and onto the highway. Proud as Paul Bunyan, his head soared high above the little team of "ten-hundred" horses as he drove through Williamson Village. People stopped to stare as he made his way down Main Street and turned the corner toward the Lake. Arriving at the sawmill, he found no one there to help him unload. But this bothered him not at all. The skidway was downhill. It contained a full tier of logs. Thus it was a simple matter, with a team of horses, to drop the load into position on the skids. If momentum carried it over the first few logs already there, it was bound to stop before it hit the rig. So, setting his hook again, he rolled 'er off, right to the center of the pile.

It took the boys at the mill forty-eight hours to get the first slab off that log. The circular saw would cut not even to the center of it; all the rest had to be chipped away with hand axes before it could be turned down and sawn into timbers. The sawmill man, whose name I have forgotten, told Dad he would never even have put it on the carriage except for the fact that its position on the skids prevented him from getting to the other logs.

Once the old sycamore butt had been reduced to building timbers, Dad drew them back to the mill site. There these timbers continue to hold it firm and upright to this very day.

MOVE TO WEBSTER

I have no hearsay evidence of my first spring and summer's existence on the old Hoff farm—even the house burned down before I can remember having seen it. But there is a document which traces Dad's next move. I do not know when my grandfather sold the Hoff place (to Thomas Sheehan, I believe), but I think it was probably in 1906. His father and mother on the Ridge Chapel Farm were both well in their eighties, and, still a widower, he had moved in to take care of them. On January 20, 1906, Dad leased fifty acres of land from Philip Larkin of Webster for one year, effective April 1, with the privilege of extending it for three years.

The terms of the lease provide an interesting insight to the times. The land was rented on the basis of equal shares in its production. Larkin reserved to his own use and benefit the main house and garden on the premises. Dad and Mother (and I) were to live in the tenant house. Dad was to furnish all necessary teams and farming implements and do all of the work on the place. He also had to furnish one-half the seed and fertilizer. Each party furnished an equal number of cows, hogs and chickens. Grain, which had to be purchased, was provided by Dad for both his own and his landlord's horses. Hay was to be fed from an undivided supply. Grain for his own cows was to be provided by each party to the contract.

Dad was to keep all the orchards trimmed and the fences in repair. Each party was to milk his own cows and take care of his own milk. Dad contracted to sow eight acres with wheat seed and sixteen hundred pounds of phosphate each fall during the continuance of the lease, as well as to furnish and seed the wheat ground to timothy hay each spring. Each party would pay half of the threshing bills and provide one-half the coal for same.

The fruit to be grown on the premises was to be disposed of by consent and advice of both parties.

Dad did not get along with Mr. Larkin from the very first. I've heard tales of disputes and disa-

greements which are better left untold in justice to witnesses who can no longer be cross examined. But I guess it was a battle royal. It reached a proper climax on the ambiguity of the consent and advice clause for the disposition of the fruit. Perhaps each party felt equally aggrieved. The upshot of the dispute was that Larkin finally offered Dad six hundred dollars to cancel the lease after it had run scarcely six months. Years later Dad told me that this was the capital with which he got his start to becoming an independent land owner—but he still had another five years to go.

I do not know the exact date of the lease-breaking but it had to be sometime before my sister Faye was born on November 15, 1906, for she was born in the house on the 'Bijah White farm. This farm is located a few rods east of John B. Pratt's house in Ridge Chapel on the same side (south) of the Ridge Road. From this fact, it is inevitable to conclude that Dad and Mother (and I) left Webster in the early fall of that year.

We were a pretty happy family on The Ridge. One of my earliest recollections is Faye's Tea Party, when she was probably between two and three. Mother and I came to it and we enjoyed the repast on Faye's tiny tea service. Mother had, of course, prepared it with her help.

I have forgotten if we went to the photographer the same day, or if it was on another occasion about the same time. But there is a photograph which shows me when I could have been little more than four, with my hand on the back of the child's rocker in which she sits. I remember she was mad as a wet hen because she wanted me to sit in the chair while she stood alongside. But her mother's will finally prevailed and the photographer caught her with little fists doubled in her lap and a baleful look in her eyes, while I stood meekly by.

(It seems incredible that one can remember events at such a very early age, and I suppose one doesn't actually recall them. But, given a photograph or some other memento, which is reviewed from time to time over the years, one does recall periodically the high lights of his life. So, I suppose one is actually recalling what he used to remember of things which happened so long ago.)

One such event that I've never forgotten occurred when I was five years old. Like most little kids (I'm told) I was obsessed with the idea that I may have been an adopted child. Such a common fantasy may well be related to the human need to know who one is and whence he came. At any rate, my playmates encouraged the idea. Several of us were playing at the Smith house next door. Looking across the field, I saw Mother come out to hang some wash on the line. "There's my mother," said I in treble tones. "No, that's my mother," said one of the other children. "It is not, she's my mother," said the third. I went home, swimming through great floods of tears. The psychic trauma was terrific, even though Mother comforted me with reassuring words. I wondered if I could really believe her.

That same year, 1909, I got my first "horse whipping." The Ridge Road, only a few steps beyond our front porch, was sandy and it was an elegant place for barefoot kids to play. Dad forbade it, but he was not always at home.

One sunny afternoon he hitched up to go to Ontario. Faye and I were playing in the yard. As he drove away, Dad admonished us to stay out of the road. But, curious children with sunburned legs, we peeked around the corner of the hedge and when we judged his buggy to be far enough away, bounced out into the sand. Well, when Dad got to the Ridge Chapel corner he whirled the horse around and came racing back. We were so engrossed that we didn't see him until he was fairly upon us. Leaping from the buggy with his whip, he slashed it across those painfully burned legs of

both of us until we thought he'd never stop. But he did, as soon as we were out of the road and the moral had been made clear to us. Years later, in recalling the incident, he said he had merely tickled our bare legs with his tassel, but to a couple of scared children caught *in flagrante* it certainly seemed much worse at the time.

LIGHTNING STRIKES

There was a big front porch on the 'Bijah White house. It was the last porch we were to have for some time. During a summer thunderstorm in that year of 1909, I saw my father struck by lightning. It was, of course, a glancing blow but it knocked him galley-west. As I recall, he was unconscious for several hours.

The four of us were eating dinner when the storm came up. Mother said "Quick, Bert, get the wash boiler and catch some soft water for the clothes." Dad jumped up, ran to the kitchen and grabbed the oblong copper vessel used in those days to boil the weekly laundry. He brought it back through the dining room, stepped out onto the porch and was about to set it on the railing under the eaves when the bolt struck nearby. The boiler flew out of his hands. He fell to the floor with a thump.

Mother was frantic and we were frightened. I don't know what she did. Perhaps she spooned some medicinal brandy into him. (Both were life-long teetotalers.) Perhaps she let nature take its course, which would undoubtedly have been the wiser thing to do, but I doubt it. Anyway, he did come to finally and by nightfall was able to milk his cows and feed his horses.

I have no documents but only my recollection of events to indicate when we moved from The Ridge, back into the interior. I believe it was early in the spring of 1910 when we left the 'Bijah White place and went to live on the Plyter farm in Hall Center, just across the road from the schoolhouse where Dad had gone to Warren Hall's Sunday School before he married.

The first event on the Plyter farm that I remember was the birth of my second sister, Iva. There was a pear tree at the southeast corner of the house. It was just outside the windows of my parents' bedroom. That July 10th turned out to be a sunny morning, and Faye and I were sent outdoors to play. The shade of the pear tree proved to be an ideal place. And the only things unusual about the situation were the drawn shades on the bedroom windows. We did not have, of course, any idea of what was going on. But when Dad called us in for dinner we found—surprise, surprise—that the doctor had been there and brought us a new baby in his little black bag.

The summer on the Plyter farm was as uneventful—or as eventful—as it often is for small children. The baby gave *us* no trouble at all. Dad bought a new horse—a bred mare named Puss—that summer. I remember his father driving over to see it and expressing his opinion of the purchase. It was good.

Dad had another accident that year which caused some commotion. While working on a pile of used lumber, he jammed a rusty nail clear through his foot. Pulling it out must have caused him some pain, but the anger it engendered probably made it bearable. Anyway, Dad hobbled from the barn to the house, dragging his bleeding foot behind him. He went down cellar and grabbed a slab of salt pork out of the pork barrel. He cut off two generous slices, slapped one against his sole and

topped his instep with the other. Then he bandaged the whole tightly, probably with a strip of cloth torn from an old sheet or one of Mother's aprons. Of course he couldn't get his shoe back on, but his rubber boot was roomy enough to take the bandage, so he went back and picked up stone the rest of the day.

With the horrible example of his Uncle Alf who suffered mightily and nearly died from tetanus, you might think that Dad would at least have worried himself sick about getting the dreadful disease. But he had faith in his salt pork treatment, and it pulled him through. Didn't even go to the doctor.

The house on the Plyter farm rested on a dry stone wall. As the winds of autumn began to blow, they came right up through the floor boards. Dad told me how he used to sit next to the stove in the evening and watch the carpet ripple like the waves on a millpond. He had to do something about that—and he did!

Going to the same pile of used lumber that had treated him so unkindly earlier, he selected the material he needed to build a fence about three feet high all around the house. This he placed about three feet out from the foundation. Into the space between he pitched load after load of horse manure. Thus insulated, the foundation of the house was safe from the chilling winds of winter. And the natural fermentation of the manure itself generated a certain amount of heat. In my mind's eye I can still see that bank of manure in the winter of 1910–11. It wasn't a pretty sight, but it sure kept us snug and warm.

I still look back to sitting by the front windows of that cozy living room to watch the pupils across the road playing in the school yard during recesses. Mother may have known some of their names, but I did not. As a means of identification, I made up appellations. Thus, one was Red Boots, another The Overall Boy. My favorite was one I called The Little Blue Capp-ed Boy. He was smaller than many of them, and the one most likely to get into trouble. Definitely an underdog.

One day as the boys were scuffling about during noon recess, one of the bigger boys attempted to snatch away The Little Blue Capp-ed Boy's lunch bucket. In the struggle that ensued the bucket burst open and his sandwich fell into the dirt. It was the first real tragedy I ever witnessed. Dad and Mother had brought us up to believe, by deeds as well as words, that food was precious; that it must not be allowed to spoil, nor to be wasted. That kid in the school yard, whose name I'll never know, has been for almost sixty years "The Poor Little Blue Capp-ed Boy" to me.

THE OLD SANFORD FARM

If I recall correctly we lived on the Plyter farm only a year. I remember distinctly the day in early spring when Dad loaded a few chairs, some tools and the Monarch Andes, the kitchen range, onto the lumber wagon and drove over to the Sanford farm through hub-deep mud. It must have been a proud day for him. Heretofore, he had always worked for his father, for wages or for shares in the produce of a farm owned by someone else. Now *he, himself,* owned the old Sanford farm.

Dad set up the range in the kitchen of the farmhouse and built a fire. The stove soon took the chill off the place and he returned to the Plyter farm for another load of household goods. The dis-

tance was about three miles. Finally, that same day or the next, he brought his family into a home of their very own.

The main part of the house was two stories, with a full cellar built of field stone. I believe that they were laid up dry. They may have been chinked with plaster but nothing in my recollection would indicate that the walls were built with cement mortar. The house itself was built of solid planking placed vertically on posts and beams and plastered on the inside. There was an ell without a cellar which was of frame construction and contained the kitchen-dining room, the pantry and woodshed. It had a capacious garret. When we moved in the exterior of the house was covered with novelty siding, a machine-made imitation clapboard. It had never been painted. The front steps were rotting out. It stood in the middle of a yard grown up to weeds.

If anything, the barn was in a worse state of disrepair. It was badly in need of a new roof. The sills, where they did not rest on piles of stone at the corners, laid directly on the ground. Some of the doors would not open because the frames which held them had settled into the ground along the bottom. Dad figured the first thing he had to do was renew the roof and shore up the foundation. He calculated he would have to have a new barn within a few years. But his repairs were effective enough so that the old barn still stands, sheltering machinery and live stock more than half a century later.

The history of the old Sanford farm, so far as I have been able to reconstruct it from indentures and mortgages, was owned by people of that name for seventy-seven years. It was not always that intact place which Dad purchased, because parcels had been sold and other parcels added over the years, but the main part of the farm goes back to November 8, 1830 when it was transferred from David Cathcart, Duke of Alloway, to Leman Sanford.

Leman probably lived there during his lifetime. In 1892 we find two of his heirs, Mary J. Sanford of Marion and Theron Sanford of North Warren, Pennsylvania, conveying their interests to his third heir, Byram G. Sanford, a clergyman of Volney, New York. The descriptions in this conveyance enumerate three parcels which outline the land upon which the last three of Dad's and Mother's children were born and where all of them grew up. It was bounded on the north (part way) by William Hoagland's farm and (the rest of the way) by land which we knew as the property of Marinus Karels. It was bounded on the east by lands of Henry Wilcox. I first knew these lands as Frank Wilcox's pasture and woodlot. The younger boys probably knew them as Guildersleeve lands. On the south the Sanford farm was bounded by lands of Emeline P. Sanford, deceased, and later known to us as Ben Birch's Hill, and by lands occupied by Michael McKewen. The western boundary was by lands of Levi Eddy. We called them "The Muck."

On March 20, 1907 Byram Sanford and his wife conveyed the farm to Matthew VanDerboegh. Dad bought it, I believe, in 1910 and took possession on April 1, 1911. He assumed several existing mortgages. Among the people who held mortgages during Dad's tenure were Frank Kellogg, his wife as executrix of his estate, Hannah White and Lulu Content. It took Dad until 1925 to pay them all off, a matter of fourteen years. It seems to me at this distance that he did pretty well considering all the hazards involved in producing farm income. No doubt he would have had a much more comfortable time with one of the federally guaranteed thirty-year mortgages of today. But he certainly wouldn't have been as happy about it, because it would have put him right back into the category of paying "rent" that he had struggled so hard to get away from.

Dad and Mother lived on the old Sanford farm for more than thirty-five years, when on October 19, 1946 they made an agreement with one of Clarence's old army buddies, John T. Herbert of Montclair, New Jersey to sell it to him.

I don't recall too much about our first years on our own place. One of the first things Dad did was to plow the garden, taking great care not to uproot the pie plant there. From the bottom of one furrow he turned up a long, slim, gray cylindrical object and silently handed it to me. I took it to my grandfather who was nearby and asked him what it was, for I had never seen anything like it before. He told me it was a slate pencil and that I would be using it myself very soon. I never did, though. When Mother took me by the hand and walked the mile down the road to Purdy schoolhouse on the first day of school that very fall, I was to find that pupils now wrote on paper with lead pencils instead of on slates with slate pencils.

Early that spring Puss produced her colt. And such a maternal animal there never was. She simply refused to work if the colt were left behind in the barn; finally Dad rigged a strap from the colt's halter to Puss's hames. With her offspring frisking beside her, Puss became fairly willing and docile.

Dad had great expectations for breaking in a new horse, but when only about six months old the colt became entangled in some barbed wire and seriously cut the inside of its thigh. The wound was bad but Dad as a veterinarian of parts (he even had an Extension Department Certificate from a Canadian Veterinary College to prove it) wasn't too concerned. He cleansed the wound and dressed it in accordance with generally accepted veterinary practice, and went about his other business. Perhaps because it is difficult to immobilize anything as active as a colt, the wound failed to heal. The poor little thing developed a general septicemia and soon died of "blood poisoning." It was a very sad day for all of us.

LIFE AT HOME

The first few years of District School were particularly enjoyable. Except for one term we had girl teachers only a few years older than the bigger boys. Our own classes in the three R's were interesting, but listening to the recitations of the older pupils was much more so. We had all eight grades in one room, and curricula for the more advanced included such esoteric subjects as poetry, geography, history and, so help me, acting. Mother, having been a teacher herself, set us a good example at home. She spent many hours on long winter evenings reading aloud. I remember particularly her reading the four volume series on American History by Myra L. Pratt to the family. Horatio Alger, Jr. lent romance to our young lives. The Bible was full of miracles and mystery. The farm and home magazines filled us with inspiration for everyday activity.

During one session of school we had a real old-fashioned winter. There was no radio or television in those days to tell us when to stay home. So, to us at any rate, school was always open and Dad would always let us go it we wanted to, despite the weather. On several days that winter Faye and I were the only pupils in attendance. Actually it was great fun for us pre-teens to climb across the mile of snowbanks to the school house. And it was the only way to do it, for horses could not get through.

On such occasions we always found the school house open, with a hot fire going in the big pot-

bellied stove in the center of the room. But there was a departure on such days from the regular routine. With only two pupils representing only two of the eight grades, Teacher couldn't very well hold the normal number of recitations. Ours were soon over and we spent the remainder of the day, all three of us with our feet on the nickel plated fenders of the stove, while Teacher read aloud from one or another of the books in the library.

I remember one spring when Dad and all the neighbors pitched in to open the roads. With only a couple of feet of snow on the ground, the usual method of plowing was to chain an evener with a pair of whippletrees to a big cast iron kettle called a hog-scalding cauldron. It was not dissimilar to the one used by the Witches of Endor some few centuries before.

A short plank placed across the mouth of the cauldron provided a seat for the driver. With the team hooked on, Dad would sit on the plank with his feet inside, and away they would go. The cauldron, weighing three hundred pounds or so with its load, made a fine furrow in snow not too deep for the horses to maintain a solid footing. Up one side of the road and down the other provided two excellent tracks for any team and bobsled. But drifts were something else again. A horse cannot work in snow so deep that it supports his weight on the barrel of his body instead of on each of his four feet. It's too dense for him to swim through, and without solid contact between hoof and ground he cannot obtain the traction necessary to force his bulk ahead. I've seen many a horse "off his feet" in deep snow. Only thing to do in such a case is to shovel out around his "treads" like we now do with automobile wheels, and push. The push administered to a horse was like that given to an automobile, in that it was from the rear. But there was this little difference. An automobile will not raise a willing tail for you to put your shoulder to.

So, when a drift became too deep for kettle plowing, the only alternative was to shovel through. Many hands made light work with heavy grain scoops. The drift on the underside of Jake Buckler's hill, where the school house stood, measured ten feet down the straight sides of the cut which Dad and the neighbors made.

Among our school mates at these early sessions were the children of the other farmers in the district. From the north came Sarah and Cornelia Karels. Between our house and the school lived Leon Birch, Ruth Love and Dorothy Buckler. From the other side, toward Marion, came Dinah, Hector and Judith Gobeyn, Leland, Ellis, Ray and Howard Garlock, Eddie Miller, Leon York, Kenneth Lovelace and Esther Boss.

My special girl friend was Sarah Karels. There was an original disparity in our ages which would only grow less as the years passed. I was ten when I fell in love with her; she was fifteen, and many a battle with heckling schoolmates she won for me.

Sarah was sometime hired help at our house, particularly at butchering time. Her family ate lights, pigs feet, and head cheese, none of which we would touch. So they always got the heads and the feet, and probably the tails too, of all the hogs Dad butchered. It was not on a barter basis at all. They owned muck land, where Faye and I worked for wages every summer, and they were always giving us young onions, beets and other muck products.

BUTCHERING TIME

Without natural ice or artificial refrigeration, butchering was always a fall festival, around Thanksgiving time when the weather, while not inclement, was cold enough so the pork would not spoil. Dad would dispatch the pigs with a butcher knife. Some people shot them in the head but they did not make such good pork.

Dad had previously erected a platform under the old walnut tree. Here he had attached a block and fall to an overhanging limb, boiled a barrelful of water in the cauldron and was ready for the scraping. The expired hogs were heaved up onto the platform, attached to the tackle blocks and sloshed up and down in the barrel of hot water. Pulled out steaming from their bath, Dad and his helper—and I—went to work with the wooden handled scrapers, sharp circular disks of steel. We made the hair fly, and in a matter of minutes were ready for the next hog. When all had been denuded, a short shaped stick called a gambrel was inserted under the Achilles' tendon in each heel and the hogs were hauled, rear end up, to the branch above. Here they were shaved.

The scraper, being a relatively crude instrument, sometimes left in certain spots what could be likened to a three or four day's growth of stubble on a man's face. With his butcher knife, whetted to a fine edge, Dad would shave off this stubble until the skins were smooth as glass.

The next operation was evisceration, and a marvelously skillful thing it was. Beginning at the tail, the hog was opened down the ventral mid-line. The posterior portion of the viscera thus dropped first into the bottom of the bushel basket held to receive it. Folded on top came the liver, kidneys, cawl and lungs, after the diaphragm muscle which held these organs in the caecum had been carefully severed. Dad removed the lungs or lights, the heart and liver, and hung them on the tree. The balance of the entrails went to the kitchen table. There Mother and Sarah would remove the leaf-lard (fat surrounding the kidneys) and strip the intestines of their surrounding layer of fat. Later all would be melted down and used as food.

Of course there was a lot of waste in this primitive process. We did not save intestinal membranes for use as sausage casings, nor did we even know about the glands from which they now make life-saving drugs that can be had everywhere today on prescription. The most exciting organ we salvaged from the intestinal train was the bladder. This was easy to empty and, blown up with air from our own lungs, made the only football that our generation in the country knew.

When the four or five hogs were all scraped, shaved, washed and gutted, they made a gleaming sight in the late afternoon sun. Here was a whole winter's supply of succulent meat for the family. It would be left to cool out over night, but we would nevertheless have fried pork liver for supper. It made a wonderfully welcome change from beef and chicken.

Butchering was always an ordeal for Mother. Besides the emotional distaste for the operation, it also involved a lot of hard work. The lard, once stripped, filled several big dishpans. It had to be rendered and poured off into jars. Uneconomical and ignorant as we were, we fed the cracklings to the chickens. Then came the cutting up and preserving processes. First Dad trimmed out the hams.

These were cured in a brine and brown sugar pickle, later to be smoked over smolderingly fragrant corn cobs. Next came the shoulders. They could be handled similarly to the hams, or used in other ways. Most of them went into boneless slices for frying as steaks. Each would have a succulent layer of fat on the outside. Dad did not cut his pork loin roasts the way they do nowadays. Instead of a three or four inch rib, he left them six or eight inches long. The balance of the carcass went into slabs for salting—he never made bacon—and into trimmings for sausage.

MAKING SAUSAGE

The sausage making process was primitive too, but it produced a product of a quality impossible to find even in the greatest of the super markets today. Dad had a long-handled meat grinder turned by man power. It was bolted to one end of a four-foot, two by six inch plank. When he laid the plank endwise on the seat of a kitchen chair and placed his two hundred pound weight on the other end, he had a steady and sturdy sausage machine. I've seen him sit, seemingly for hours, a dishpan of pork trimmings on a chair to his left, an empty dishpan on the floor under the grinder to his right, and watch the threads of sausage meat slowly extrude through the perforated plate of the grinder.

Once the meat was ground, it had to be seasoned. I have an old recipe in Dad's own handwriting labeled "SUSSAGE." It reads "To each six pounds of meat, 1-1/2 oz salt, 1/2 oz pepper, 1/2 oz sag(e), 1/2 teaspoon ginger, 1 tablespoon brown sugar, salt peter size of pea, alspice or mace or ground nutmeg."

Pork sausage is a highly perishable commodity, even in cool weather. We ate all we could while it was still fresh, often with pancakes and maple syrup boiled down from our own trees during the spring. But with sixty to a hundred pounds of the meat at one butchering, other ways of handling it had to be found. Mother cooked a lot of it and "put it down" in crocks and Mason jars, the same way in which she processed a lot of fried pork. Again the method was laborious and primitive, but it was effective.

I remember Mother and Sarah spending all day one day cooking and canning sausage in the kitchen. It must have been about the middle of the 1910–1920 decade.

Right after a hearty breakfast of, what else?, pancakes and sausage with probably fried potatoes and home made bread, butter and coffee and possibly a fried-cake with honey on it, they put all the spiders on the stove and filled them with sausage cakes. These were cooked until the meat was completely sterilized. Then the cakes were stacked in crocks or jars which stood in roasting pans to catch the drippings. When the containers had been filled with the meat, hot lard was added to overflowing to exhaust all the air inside. Later the jars were capped with a hermetic seal and would keep well into the next summer. The crocks were scraped of the grease which had spilled down the sides, topped with pieces of paper, and the whole carried to the cool cellar. The crocks would be used first, of course.

It had been a busy and exhausting day. As the lines of weary toil on the faces of the two women lengthened with the rays of the setting sun, Mother got out a loaf of her bread. She cut eight generous slices, and between each two she placed a huge cake of sausage. These she gave to Sarah to take

home for supper. That cleaned up that sausage-making day, leaving us only enough for supper and for breakfast the next morning.

THE NEW LAWN

One of the first things Dad did after moving to the Sanford farm was to attempt to improve the appearance of the place. The siding on the house wasn't worth painting. It had weathered too long. But the weed patch surrounding it could be improved.

Unfortunately, there were three huge maple stumps along the front edge which would interfere mightily with the making of a lawn. One way to get rid of them was to dig and chop, dig and chop, for days on end. Dynamite, which came into general use later for clearing stumpage, was then almost unknown in our section of the country. The easiest method was to pull them out.

How well I remember the day that Charlie Larkins brought over his windlass behind his span of oxen. I had never seen a yoke of oxen before; most of them had long since been replaced by horses.

Charlie set up his windlass in the middle of the road and anchored it with log chains to the bole of a big tree across the way. Then he attached the windlass rope to the stump which he hoped to pull. Around and around the windlass went the powerful oxen, exerting ever more pull on the stump. As a big root on the far side popped through the surface of the soil, Dad would swing his axe and gain an inch. Finally, with much brute force, the stump was uprooted. It took Charlie all day to pull two of them. He came back next morning to get the third.

With the stumps out of the way, Dad plowed the field. Then he dragged it both lengthwise and crosswise. Then he started picking stone.

Picking stone is back-breaking work. He used the stone boat for the big ones. This was an implement made from two-inch plank. It rested flat upon the ground. The nose was sawed on a bevel to let it ride over uneven ground.

Stones too heavy to lift were pried up to surface level. The boat was brought alongside and the stone rolled over onto it. If it were too big to roll by hand, a log chain was looped around it and the team did the work of loading.

With the big boulders out of the way, the next step was to throw the sizes which could be lifted onto the truck wagon. When the surface was cleared of these small and medium sized stone, Dad dragged the area a couple of times more. This brought up a new crop, to be removed by muscle power. The final "fitting" of the lawn consisted of raking the small stone into little piles, and loading them with a six-tined fork. Now Dad had perhaps a tenth of an acre of fine seed-bed. Here he sowed his grass seed, and the lawn still flourishes more than fifty years later. So far as I know, that first basic lawn has never been plowed and reseeded in all these years.

It has often been said that lightning never strikes the same place twice; but I've seen it strike the same man twice. In the summer of 1913, a thunderstorm came up suddenly, again when we were at the dinner table as we had been when Dad was first struck. One of the proud decorations of the new lawn was a tremendously tall Norway Spruce which stood in the middle of it. Into this natural lightning rod crashed a bolt, splitting the tree all the way down to the ground. Here it followed one of the long roots, entered the cellar and came up the pump pipe through the cistern with a great

crackle and flash. It was nowhere near the close hit Dad had suffered on The Ridge, but it paralyzed him momentarily. He dropped his knife and fork, sat staring still for a few moments, but did not lose consciousness. All afternoon he complained of a most painful prickling sensation in his arms.

The lightning brought down the tall tree and Dad had to mow the lawn around it until he could get time to saw it up into firewood. That downed tree was a summer playground for Iva, who was then the baby in the house. She would climb its rough and scaly branches, sit on the trunk and amuse herself for hours. I remember coming upon her there one time when she was playing with an old snake skin which she pretended to be a mouth organ.

It was some few years before Dad accumulated enough money to do anything about the appearance of the outside of the house. There were no aluminum siding contractors in those days, and Dad had to do it the hard way. He figured out how many board feet of four-inch clapboards it would take to cover the house. Then he drove down to the Williamson Lumber Company and got them. And, with the help of a handy-man carpenter, he put them all on in ship-shape fashion, straight and plumb. I think his helper was Will Fillmore, brother of Mill (Millard) Fillmore, who lived next house. At any rate I remember his telling a story about a farm boy who was helping on a similar job. The carpenter on the scaffold called down to the boy on the ground to measure a board which looked from the distance to be about the right length. The boy applied his rule and called back "She's nine feet, seven inches and three of them little, bitty marks." Well, you could have tied that carpenter with a log chain. He told the boy that if he couldn't learn to read a rule, he'd never amount to a hill of beans.

When the house had been refurbished with the beautiful new clapboards, Dad laid out plans for building a porch across its entire width. The old rotted stoop was taken away and holes dug in the proper places for piers on which to rest the structure. Into these holes went big locust posts, said to be good for a hundred years. From the way the porch still looks, I guess they will be.

For the fancy trim of the porch—moldings, pillars, balustrades, steps—Dad hired old Ike Brooks, the janitor at Williamson High School. Mr. Brooks was in his eighties and an awesome figure to all school kids. He was the strongest man I ever knew, stronger even than Dad, who was less than half his age.

Once the siding was on and the porch finished, Dad hired Mill Fillmore to paint it a Colonial white. The lines were good and with the new paint the old farmhouse took on an appearance which pleased us all. Mother planted her flower gardens around it and enjoyed that porch for well over a third of her life. Earlier Dad had built a thousand gallon cistern to supplement the well water supply, but he never did get to build his new barn, even though he had excavated a site for its basement and barnyard.

PHYSICAL COMPLAINTS

While Dad in his prime was a pretty strong guy, he also had some serious physical complaints. One was called yellow jaundice by Old Doc Ward. Current therapy at the time for anything involving the liver was a murderous mercurial compound known as calomel. Old Doc, in the medical

nomenclature of the day, filled Dad up with it. Today we would say he pushed the drugs. In any event the patient survived, in spite of the medication. But his bone structure had been forever weakened, and he lost many of his teeth. He could and did replace the teeth in after years, teeth man-made out of fired clay and set in vulcanized rubber. They gave him lots of trouble until the very day he died.

Another, and later, complaint was "gas." For more than half his life Dad suffered from more or less serious symptoms of interior ulceration. He took a nostrum called Eatonic (an alkalizing preparation) for years, for the same reason that we now often chew Phillip's Tablets, Tums, Rollaids and the like for the same symptoms. Perhaps his diet, which was traditional New England (pork, potatoes, pickles and pie) had something to do with the situation. But one food in particular always "brought up the gas" and gave him great relief. A fifth "P" to be added to the above, that food was peanuts; the little red-skinned Spanish variety. When I went to school in Rochester, Dad always gave me an extra dime on Monday morning. With it I always bought a pound of salted peanuts at the Neisner Five-and-Dime Friday afternoon before boarding the trolley for home.

In 1944 Dad had a prostatectomy at Park Avenue Hospital. It turned out to be a perfectly satisfactory piece of surgery. In later years he suffered heart failure and "doctored" for it for many years. Finally his ankles filled to painfulness, and with the new mercurial diuresis of now current medical practice, his old heart refused to be prodded further. It stopped at Clifton Springs Hospital on October 7, 1965, after two weeks under the medical lash in frantically trying to pump his legs dry. He was the last male descendant of those early Pratt colonizers of Marion . . . his four boys have all moved away.

THE ORCHARDS

When Dad bought the Sanford farm from Matt VanDerboegh there were two young apple orchards on the place. One was behind the house, the other on the hill. He bought them for Baldwins; they turned out to be Pewaukees, a much inferior variety.

Since apple trees were spaced forty feet apart in each direction there is much good crop land between the rows when they are still small. While they were growing, Dad used the lower orchard for a berry patch and the upper one for corn, wheat and potatoes.

The berries were, I believe, a Burbank hybrid obtained from crossing red and black raspberries. Once effected, the cross reproduced itself true to form by layering. The new variety was a heavy bearer, the fruit about twice the size of its larger parent, probably a Cuthbert Red. It was purple in hue and was named the Columbian raspberry. The first planting was about four acres.

Berry-picking time was something of a social time all around, especially for us kids. It lasted about four weeks, usually from early in July to the first week in August. The first few years we were on the farm Dad relied on friends, neighbors and relatives for the picking. Sina Fillmore, from the next house, was a wonderfully quick picker—upwards of one-hundred-fifty quarts a day. Mother was right behind her, but she had to take time out to prepare dinner and supper. Mary Birdsall was good, too. Faye and I picked at the lower branches. Dad and Grandpa Pratt helped out when they could. Leland and Cecil McCray, Mary's nephews, were also sometime pickers.

The way Dad ran the show, we started early Monday morning on the rows closest to the house. We worked from dawn to dark, more than twelve hours at that season of the year. And by each Saturday night, when we quit at the early hour of 6:00 P.M., the last row next to the woods was still unpicked. For four successive weeks we managed to get over the patch—all except for that last row. During the entire season it remained unharvested, breaking its own branches under the heavy load of fruit which accumulated.

My grandfather was still a widower in 1911. He lived on the Ridge Chapel farm with his aged mother. I remember to this day the surprised pleasure which greeted his announcement, on a summer afternoon under the old maple tree in our side yard, that he was going to get married again. He was right formal in his remarks, prefacing them with the information that he had been twenty-seven when he first married and that he had lived with his wife for twenty-five years. She had now been dead going on ten years and he thought it time for an old man over sixty to take on a new helpmate. The woman he had selected was Mary B. Birdsall of our berry patch. They were joined together a few months later, on November 15, 1911, and a most attractive and prepossessing couple they made as they sat for their wedding photo.

A few years later Dad planted another apple orchard, almost as big as the two he already had. To buy the trees he became a sales representative for Stark Brothers Nurseries. I believe they were located in St. Louis. The catalogue from which he sold was lavishly illustrated in full color with the most delicious looking fruit one could imagine.

Dad selected five varieties for a long ripening season and planted two acres to each, a total of ten acres. On the top of the hill were the earliest ripening ones, a new variety called Dutchess of Oldenburg, a hybrid obtained from the old fashioned Red Astrichan. They never did much. Next came the MacIntosh, a newly-developed hybrid of the Famuse or snow apple. They turned out to be the best. On the brow of the hill he planted two acres to Alexanders, later known and sold as Wolf Rivers. They were the biggest apples of the lot, beautiful for baking. But they were strictly cooking apples, light in weight and never hard and crisp as eating apples should be.

Down the slope from the Alexanders went two acres of Hubbardsons. They were large and sound but less attractive to look at and to eat out of hand than the Macks or the juicy and good-keeping Wealthies, which covered the last two acres. The best tasting apples on the whole farm, however, were produced on two random trees which grew in fence corners. One was a Spitzenburg, the other, an unpredictable bearer, a Northern Spy.

Dad also had a pear orchard, planted half and half with Seckels and Bartletts. A couple of years later he planted five acres to cherries, divided between Early Richmonds and Montmorencies, to give him the longest possible harvest season.

These orchards all represented growth stocks to Dad. They were indeed. Even though not in the form of certificates for shares traded on the Stock Exchange, they were the capital with the income from which he saw six children through high school and helped them all to go on farther as best he could.

Dad shipped milk for several years. He built a concrete cow stable in the barn to house eight head, with a box stall for the dry stock and the calves. He also built a milk house half way between the house and the barn. In it he installed his aereator and two concrete set tanks. Everything was inspected and passed by the state employee charged with this function.

PRODUCING MILK

Milk production for public sale was a highly regulated process, even in those days. Dad got up at four o'clock every morning, winter and summer, and fed his horses. Then he milked his cows by hand, carried the milk to the milk house and strained it into the tank of the aerator. The strainer was a contraption into which you placed a thick layer of cotton batting, covered it with cheese cloth, and clamped it all on to the low end of the funnel with a tight-fitting collar.

Then he went to the well behind the house where he pumped some thirty gallons of cold water. This he carried back down to the milk house and emptied it into a tub. The aerator consisted of a hollow corrugated core of metal set upright under the milk tank. The tub of cold water was connected by a rubber hose to the intake of the metal core, the outlet being similarly connected to another tub outside the building. The aerating and cooling action took place when the milk flowed slowly from a perforated pan over the water-cooled surface of the corrugations, and was then led off into milk cans. Even though it worked only by dint of a lot of man power, it was pretty efficient nevertheless. The milk came from the animals at a Fahrenheit temperature of almost one hundred degrees. The water came from the well at less than fifty. The slowly trickling milk thus lost much of its animal heat and was cooled to below atmospheric temperatures on hot summer days. The waste water from the operation Dad used for his horses.

In the summertime, last night's milk which had gone through the same process was placed into the cooling tanks so it would not rise unduly in temperature during the night. When the morning's processing was finished, Dad harnessed Little Bill, the road horse, to the democrat wagon, set both milkings aboard, and unloaded them onto the trolley platform at The Ridge to be freighted into Rochester. Half the year he got back home before daylight to eat his breakfast and get started on his day's work. He prided himself in those days for having his team in the lot by seven o'clock. When he quit at six in the afternoon he still had two or three hours of milk processing and other chores ahead of him. Even so, perhaps he was lucky to escape our sleepless nights watching the late, late show.

Berry patches, while perennial, play out after a few years so far as peak production is concerned. When the new apple orchard had been planted on the hill, Dad tipped in several rows of his berries down by the house and grew a sufficient number of new plants to set out a new patch in this orchard. Yearly he repeated the process until he has some five acres of Columbians—plus a few rows of Cuthberts for the family—in various stages of production. This called for more pickers than the immediate neighborhood could furnish.

BERRY PICKERS

Seasonal help was available in Rochester, but it had to be housed on the farm. So Dad built a building in the middle of the field north of the house. It was one and one-half story, contained more than seven hundred square feet of floor space. The downstairs was used for storage of farm implements. Upstairs contained a farm shop and space to sleep, barracks fashion, a score of men or more.

The erection of this small building was a monumental work of the builder's craft to a small boy. Dad and Grandad built it all themselves with me acting as carpenter's helper. I vividly recall every stage of the construction, from sills to ridge pole.

As berry-picking time approached Dad made his arrangements with an employment agency in Rochester. When the day came he would drive our new Ford truck to the City and pick up a dozen or so men. One year they seemed all to be Polish; another time, they were mostly Russians. They picked berries all day, were paid according to their production in quarts, furnished their own food and slept on straw-filled pallets in the new building. The Slovenes subsisted mostly on bread and sardines, with all the fresh fruit they wanted to eat. One year we had Italians and it was a source of wonderment to Dad and Mother to find that their gustatory delight consisted of bread saturated with olive oil and garnished with burdock leaves, a most unfriendly weed to us and to be rooted out wherever possible.

On a peak production day during one of the early years Dad ran out of berry crates. They came in four sizes; three-layer, twenty-four-quart, three-layer thirty-six-quart, four-layer forty-eight-quart and five-layer sixty-quart. On this particular day he was short the capacity of seven sixty-quart crates. What to do?

After supper, as always, he put the flat-bed hay rack on the lumber wagon, loaded all his horse blankets and drove up the hill through the woods to the berry patch. The crated berries were quickly hoisted aboard, but the loose quarts were something else again. Each one had to be picked up separately and placed carefully on the floor of the flat-bed. When the floor space was covered Dad spread blankets over the tier and placed another layer on top of them. When it was completed he covered the whole with more blankets. The total "take" that day was something like fourteen hundred quarts which at twelve cents per quart (less two for picking) was almost as much money as his father had paid for the whole farm where he had been born.

I remember particularly those summer nights when Dad delivered his berries to Davis's or Waterman's at The Depot, five miles away. He usually managed to get home by nine or ten o'clock, and on moonlight nights I think I still can hear him whistling his home-made tunes as far away as Will Hoagland's while the team trotted toward its well-earned rest.

THE SAWDUST PILE

Before Dad built the milk house he bought Hank Whitcomb's sawmill and erected it across the path from the house to the barn. That winter he sawed all manner of logs and bolts, creating a huge sawdust pile between the spruce trees. In the spring he moved the rig to The Mill on The Ridge, to make room for the milk house. During the summer and fall months that sawdust pile made a wonderful place for children to play. Faye and I flattened down portions and built farms on it, complete with buildings, hay fields, berry patches and muck lands. One November day in that sawdust pile is especially memorable to me. The three of us (Iva was four-and-one-half at the time) had been sent out to play in the middle of the morning. The curtains in Mother's room remained drawn. The Doctor came, but if we thought anything about it, we were much too busy to go inside. After a few hours the Doctor backed his horse out of the barn and departed and Dad called us in to

a belated dinner. Mother was still sick, even though on his call the Doctor had forgotten to take back with him a baby boy which he had brought along. Did we want to keep him? Of course we did! From that November 27th, 1914 until June 17, 1918, Clarence was the baby of the house. John was born on the latter date; Ernest, the last baby, on July 4, 1920.

About 1915, when my grandfather was sixty-five, Dad made some sort of deal to run The Mill; I never knew the details. Its great cavernous hulk contained two cider presses complete with graters, powerful hydraulic pumps, two six-hundred-gallon collecting vats and hundreds of charred oak barrels. One of these presses was sold to make room for the sawmill, and Dad now became a manufacturer of lumber and crate material as well as of cider and vinegar, in addition to running the farm. "Sometimes you've got business, and sometimes business has got you," said his friend, Harry Rubin. Dad repeated the remark to the family and opined that business had got him.

The years Dad ran The Mill were probably his most prosperous. In his early thirties, he could and did work prodigiously. He installed, in addition to the big saw which reduced the logs to planks, a long cut-off saw rig with a swinging blade which made blocks of the planks, and a gang-saw which ripped the blocks into five or six crate slats at one pass.

I was never big enough to handle planks as they came from the log. But on Saturdays and after school I was allowed to cut the planks into lengths and to count and stack the crate slats as they came through the gang. Dad also had a feed mill with which he reduced whole grains to cow-feed, horse-feed and hog-feed.

Although most of his waking moments were devoted to hard work, Dad lived by a strict set of rules which I think were entirely admirable. For example, he would never tell me I could not do something that I wanted to do. Rather, if he thought it unwise, he would explain why, thus making me responsible for any action I might take. And I soon learned that if he didn't want me to do something (like turning over a neighbor's privy at Halloween for instance) there was intelligence superior to mine behind it. His "permissiveness" was most unusual for those days. He helped me at age sixteen when I wanted to leave home and board in Rochester, and again at eighteen when I got the notion of going to Florida.

Dad never licked me (the "horsewhipping" doesn't count) but he often threatened. The penalty for getting a licking by Teacher was a repeat of same when I came home from school. There was no question of my rights in the matter; corporal punishment at school was to be conclusive evidence, with no appeal whatever, of personal misdemeanor.

Dad would never allow anyone to order him to do anything. A certain way to negative action was to say to him, "Bert, you've got to do this or that." His inevitable reply would be, "I haven't *got to* do anything." It may have been a holdover from his father's telling him he had to leave school and go to work. But the words "got to" inflamed him like waving the proverbial red flag in front of a bull.

CREDIT RATING

Dad always had top credit rating in his locality. And he kept it that way. He always anticipated payment of his debts, and if he were not going to have the money when a bill fell due, he always

made prior arrangements for an extension of time. Refinancing, we might call it today, but with this difference. Dad was always able to "run his face" for any credit he ever needed. He never executed a chattel mortgage on anything he purchased, never put up collateral or furnished co-signers for any of his promissory notes, never signed a conditional bill of sale, never bought "on time" at retail. If he didn't have the ready cash for machinery or for fertilizer or seed he went to the bank and borrowed at an annual interest rate of six per cent whatever he needed, upon no other security than his reputation as a competent citizen and honest man. I've heard him tell how, when a mortgagee threatened to raise his rate by one per cent for the forthcoming year, he went to a friend who took him to the bank, withdrew five hundred dollars and handed him the money without receipt or acknowledgement, to enable him to liquidate the "usurer's" indenture. She knew, as did everyone, that he would never fail to make restitution with interest to the very penny.

Dad was totally abstemious during his lifetime. I don't know why. Nor did he ever use tobacco in the manner of his father and father-in-law. He did take up smoking cigars as a result of attending lodge meetings of The Maccabees sometime after he was married, and he later smoked cigarettes. But he never chewed the redolent fine-cut leaf which came in small tin pails and which was the delight of Grandpa Pratt and Grandpa Knapp. Me? I smoked cigars for years quite immoderately. In my old age, however, my tranquilizer of choice is "The high grade tobacco chew men like best," Copenhagen snuff.

Both Dad's father and father-in-law wore full beards, the latter to the time of his death. But while Dad's life spanned the period from Burnside to beatnik, his chin was always clean shaven, though he did wear a mustache in his earlier manhood.

I don't know just when Dad went back to farming full time, but Grandfather sold the Ridge Chapel farm with The Mill in 1920 and bought a new house with two acres of land in Williamson Village. It had central heating and city water, which this fifteen-year-old had never seen before. The big enameled iron bathtub upstairs was a lot different from our copper wash boiler beside the kitchen stove. The furnace in the cellar had to be stoked only once a day, even in winter. The inside toilet was warm and cozy, not like the cold and windy one we had out back.

I was a junior in Williamson High School at the time and one night went skating on K. M. Davis's pond. The Beach boys were going to bring me home. But I didn't get there. A snap-the-whip accident knocked me cold and when I woke up I was on Grandpa's couch in his dining room. The spin had cracked my skull in several places and Dr. Clark kept me in bed for a couple of weeks. I sure enjoyed my recovery in the east bedroom of that fabulous house.

That year, 1920, was my last full one at home. The next fall saw me at East High School in Rochester for my senior year. I should have graduated in June, 1922, but was held over to the next January. Working through the summer of 1923 I obtained enough cash money to embark on a trip to Florida in the fall, a trip from which I never permanently returned to the family roof. Thus my knowledge of Dad's doings from then on is somewhat sketchy. The younger boys can fill it in and I hope they do.

On every visit home during the Thirties and Forties and Fifties—and we always tried to make it for Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July—we caught up with each other to some extent. At the beginning my sisters were already grown. The younger boys were growing but still had college (Cornell) ahead of them. Sometime in the Forties all Dad's children were out in the world.

Dad and Mother left the old Sanford farm in 1947. Breaking up the household in which they had lived so long must have been a tremendous undertaking for two old people, but they were lucky in renting the big stone farmhouse in Hall Center from Grace Carter for their retirement. It was the same house in which Iva and Grace Hall lived when Dad was gadding about in his flaming youth; it was only a couple of miles from the cobblestone house in which Mother had grown up and gone to teaching school.

Mother was taken from Hall Center to Park Avenue Hospital in Rochester in late July of that year. There she died on August 1, 1947. Clarence called me in New York, I called John in Panama and we all got home for her funeral three days later. She now lies in Ridge Chapel Cemetery with Dad beside her.

THE KNAPP SIDE OF THE FAMILY

When Dad married the youngest Knapp daughter two families of remote lineage were joined. Grandpa Knapp first married Ruth Birdsall who bore Ella and Carrie Knapp. After her death he married Mary S. Bishop who became our grandmother. Ella married James Inglis, a Canadian gentleman whom I never knew very well. They owned a part of the land in Palmyra on which the Mormon Monument to Moroni now stands. Carrie, a school teacher in whose footsteps Mother followed, married one of the sons of Steve and Jennie Franks, Allison, who became the blacksmith in Walworth Village.

Mary Bishop was the youngest of a family of four children born to Willard and Esther Totman Bishop. Her birth date was June 29, 1847; the place was Bishop's Corners in St. Lawrence County. It is no longer on current maps. Her grandparents were among the early settlers of Upper New York, coming from the town of Rain (Colrain?), Massachusetts by ox-cart. When Mary was a young child, the family moved to Ontario, New York. On December 10, 1877, she was married to Charles H. Knapp of Macedon in a double ceremony with Professor Dwight Warne and Vida Brown, the latter a girl I would like to tell you more about if I ever have the time. Mary Bishop had two children, Mother and her brother who died in infancy. I knew her well in my childhood. She died on June 13, 1930 at the age of eighty-three.

When we were children an always exciting event was the Knapp Family Reunion, organized by my aunt Carrie Franks and held annually in memory of Caleb and Rebecca Hoyt Knapp by their descendants. It was not until the age of sixty that I came to know who Caleb and Rebecca Hoyt Knapp had been.

Charles Henry Knapp, our grandfather, was born on September 26, 1837, son of Caleb Knapp, Jr., and Susan Calhoun. Caleb Knapp, Jr., was born May 12, 1804, son of Caleb and Rebecca Hoyt Knapp. Caleb had been born on May 5, 1765. His birth is earlier by some twenty years than any of our other relatives who came to Marion in the early days excepting only Mary Barton Pratt.

When Mother joined the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1931, she based her "Ancestor Service" not on the Knapp lineage, but on that of her grandmother, Susan Calhoun.

Susan was one of the twenty children of Capt. James Calhoun and his second wife, Mary Perry.

The Captain was born on April 15, 1764 but his birthplace is unknown. He was said to be the first white settler in East Williamson, coming from Boston in 1805 with his wife and ten children in two old Yankee covered wagons. His Revolutionary War service is credited from Petersham, Worcester County, Massachusetts, where he enlisted, at the age of eighteen, in April 1781 and was discharged in June, 1784 nearly a year after the War ended. He also served in the War of 1812 and was on duty at Sodus Point when it was burned by the British. He and his wife, Mary, are buried in the East Williamson Cemetery. I have not seen their tombstones.

THE COOK AND FOX FAMILIES

I never saw my paternal grandmother, Ida Emrill Cook, since she died on the Isaac Hoff farm three years before I came upon the scene. But her ancestry, so far as it exists in Marion, is extremely interesting too.

Dad never told me very much about his mother or her folks, perhaps because the memory of her death was so recent and painful. Among his mementos I found, after his death, a boxed necktie which she had given him for Christmas in 1901 and which he wore for the first time at her funeral, less than two weeks later. It is a splendid tie, tailored in the style that was still current in the nineteen-forties.

But Dad had carefully preserved all his Mother's family albums and her family's Bibles. He also had her diary for 1871 and her sister Libby's for 1875. A year of fascinating study and speculation on this material finally cleared the lines for me and I can go back into her lineage with confidence to the year 1782 when her grandfather, John Cook, was born on February thirteenth. Her grandmother, Hannah Fox, was born on June 27, 1783; her grandmother, Catherine Cook on February 13, 1785 and her grandfather, Martin Fox, on July 7, 1785. Ida's father, William Cook, was born December 13, 1816 and her mother, Lucinda Fox, on June 25, 1820.

I do not know where the Cook ancestors came from nor where they are buried. But Martin Fox arrived in Webster from Saratoga County, New York in 1812 and he and his wife and at least some of their children are buried in Union Hill Cemetery. If I live long enough, perhaps I can locate the rest of the family.

Ida's parents apparently were people of some substance. They owned a fruit and vegetable farm on the rich and early soil of Irondequoit Bay and sent both their girls to Normal School for higher education.

I have a carefully preserved cabinet photograph of the family taken about 1860. In gold frames, facing each other, are Father and Mother in their early forties, and the three children, Osbert Luzern about thirteen, Sara Elizabeth (Libby), six, and Ida, nine. I also have a photograph of William and Lucinda Cook taken some forty years later when they were both very old. Interspersed in point of time are many photos of the children.

Lucinda Fox, Ida's mother, had three sisters and two brothers. Eliza married a man named Sharp, and I know nothing more about her. But Fannie married Isaac Hoff, which brings her close to me, and Maryann married Benoni Conley which explains our relationship to the Conley family.

The only information I have, except the origin and terminal dates of their lives, of Ida's uncles James and Martin are occasional references to visits recorded in the diaries.

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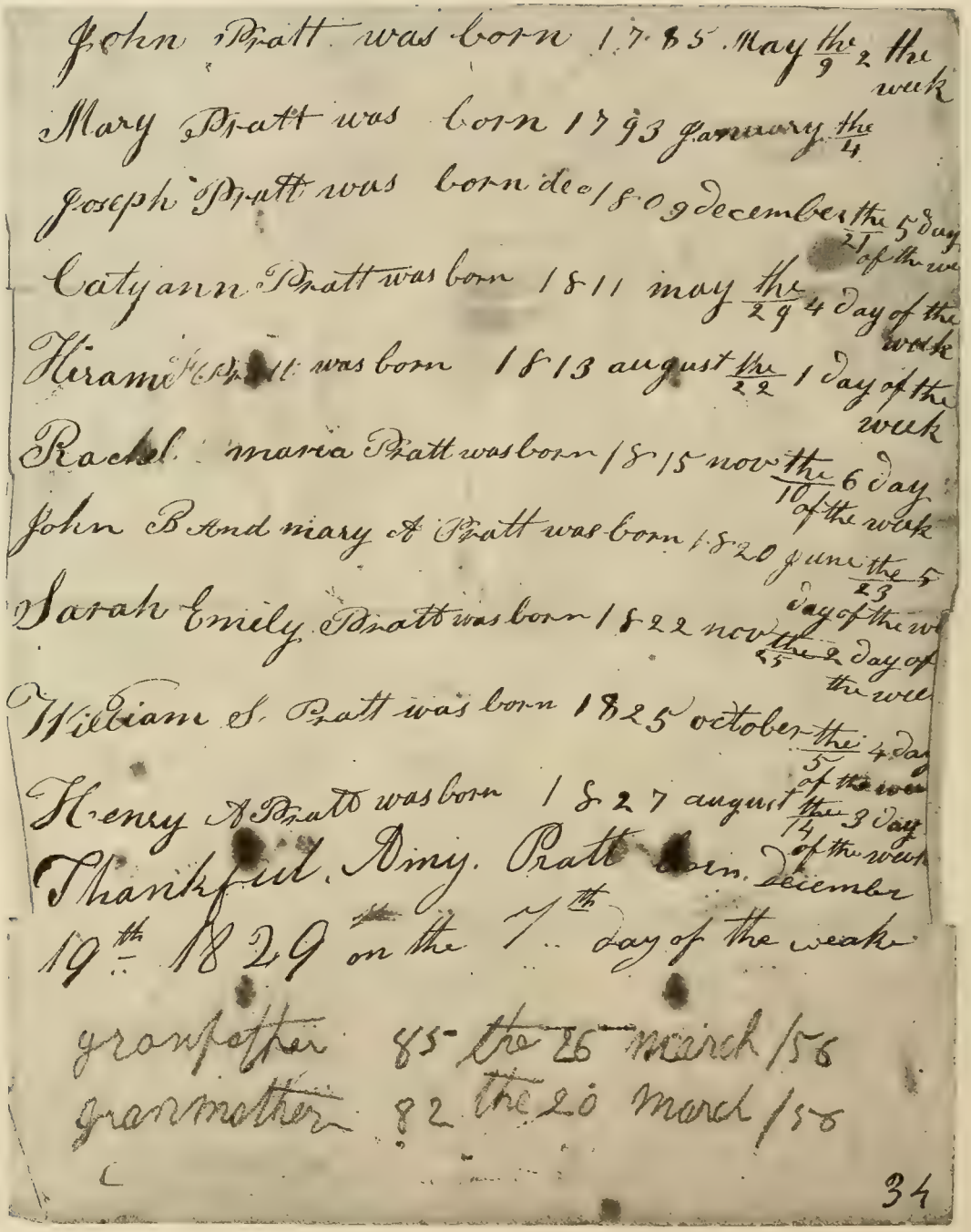
"THE LINES have fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." Ten generations. They flash through my mind—people of my lineage named Cook and Fox, Hall and Penwell, Knapp and Bishop and Calhoun, Barton and Gale. Who am I? The amalgam, the permutation of all these who lived and worked and died before me—throughout the entire history of the United States of America—yes, and for a century and one half before.

I agree there is a psychic satisfaction in knowing who one is and whence he came. A source of wondering and uncertainty and perhaps sometimes of misgiving, has at long last been resolved. But, there's lots more that might be done. Someday, someone may find it as absorbing and as interesting as I have to pursue the matter further. This record, and my notes and memorabilia are always available.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

RECORDS FROM OSBERT A. PRATT FAMILY BIBLES


John Pratt was born 1785 May the 9 2 the week
Mary Pratt was born 1793 January the 4
Joseph Pratt was born dec 1809 december the 5 day 21 of the we
Caty ann Pratt was born 1811 may the 29 4 day of the week
Hiram Pratt was born 1813 august the 22 1 day of the week
Rachel maria Pratt was born 1815 nov the 10 6 day of the week
John B and mary A Pratt was born 1820 june the 5 23 day of the w
Sarah Emily Pratt was born 1822 nov the 5 2 day of the wee
William S. Pratt was born 1825 october the 5 4 day of the wee
Henry A Pratt was born 1827 august the 14 3 day of the week
Thankful Amy Pratt born december 19th 1829 on the 7th day of the week
grandfather 85 the 26 march 56
grandmother 82 the 20 march 58
34

This scrap of paper was found carefully preserved in the Bible of John B. Pratt. It is evidently a consolidation of information from earlier Bibles. The last two lines in pencil have been reinforced for readability. The symbols in the two lower corners are unintelligible to me. "34" may possibly have been the year in which the record was made, though the pencil notations were obviously entered later. "Grandfather" and "Grandmother" were Joseph and Rachel Penwell, whose birth dates appear on the reverse side.

RECORDS FROM OSBERT A. PRATT FAMILY BIBLES

THESE RECORDS represent six family Bibles that have come down to us. The first date in them is March 26, 1771, the birthday of our great, great, great grandfather, Joseph Penwell. The last date is August 1, 1947, the date on which my mother died. The notations from Bible to Bible are as follows and are transcribed literally, with no attempt to rearrange them chronologically.

The following all appear to have been transcribed at the same time and by the same hand:

John Pratt was born 1785 May the 9 2 the week
Mary Pratt was born 1793 January the 4

Joseph Pratt was born 1809 Dec the 21 5 day of the week
Catyann Pratt was born 1811 May the 29 4 day of the week
Hiram F. Pratt was born 1813 August the 22 1 day of the week
Rachel Maria Pratt was born 1815 Nov the 10 6 day of the week
John B. and Mary A. Pratt was born 1820 June the 23 5 day of the week
Sarah Emily Pratt was born 1822 Nov the 25 2 day of the week
William S. Pratt was born 1825 October the 5 4 day of the week
Henry A. Pratt was born 1827 August the 14 3 day of the week

and in a different hand

Thankful Amy Pratt born December 19th 1829 on the 7th day of the weake

A note in pencil in an unknown hand:

Grandfather 85 the 26 March /56
Grandmother 82 the 20 March /56

Overleaf in an unknown hand:

Joseph Penwell born March 26, 1771
Rachel Penwell March 20, 1774

The Days of the Week

The day-of-the-week listings above seem to be based on the following octet which was still current in my childhood. Despite the tabular form of our calendar, Monday seems to have been regarded as the first day of the week and Sunday was the Sabbath (seventh).

Monday's child is fair of face
Tuesday's child is full of grace
Wednesday's child is full of woe
Thursday's child has far to go
Friday's child is loving and giving
Saturday's child works hard for a living
And a child that is born on the Sabbath Day
Is fair and wise and good and gay.

From a Currier & Ives Family Register, in unknown hands:

Charles W. Pratt born Aug 14, 1850 in Williamson
Married Feb. 1, 1877 in Rochester by Rev. D. W. C. Huntington Ida E. Pratt born July 24, 1851 in Irondequoit. Died Jan. 7, 1902. Marion.

Libbie Emrill Pratt born Jan. 13, 1880 in Williamson. Died 29 of Jan. 1881
Osbert Alfred Pratt born Sept. 15, 1882 in Williamson

From the Bibles

MARRIAGES, in unknown hands:

John B. Pratt to Nancy M. Hall, January 14, A. D. 1846
Alfred E. Pratt married to Ellen A. Phelps August 19th, 1868 by Rev. Mr. Swollow
Charles W. Pratt to Ida E. Cook by Rev. D. C. M. Hutington Feb. 1st 1877 (Rochester)
Charles W. Pratt to Mary B. Birdsall November 15, 1911
Henry A. Pratt to Ann E. Cornish Feb the 11th 1855 by Rev. Mr. Osborn

BIRTHS, in unknown hands:

John B. Pratt June 23 A. D. 1820. Marion, Wayne County, N.Y.
Nancy M. Hall October 9 A. D. 1823 Scott, Cortland Co N.Y.
Alfred E. Pratt Nov 19th A.D. 1846. Williamson, Wayne Co N.Y.
Charles W. Pratt Aug 14th A.D. 1850. Williamson, Wayne Co N.Y.
Sarah I. Pratt Sept 8 1858. Lock, Ingham Co. Mich.
Addie Lilly A.D. 1862, Nov 1st, Lock Ingham Co. Mich.

Charles W. Son of A. E. and Ellen A. was born in Douglass, Kansas, April 15th A.D. 1871
Libbie E. Dughter Chas. W. and Ida E Pratt, Jan 13 1880 Wmson, N.Y.
Osbert Alfred Pratt, Sept 15th 1882
Charles L. Pratt Marion, N.Y. March the 2nd, 1858

DEATHS, in my father's hand:

John B. Pratt died Nov 1906
Nancy M. Pratt died Nov 29 1912

In unknown hands:

Sarah Imogene Pratt died April 4th, 1861, Locke Ingham Co. Mich
Addie Lilly Aug 10th A.D. 1863
Libbie E Pratt Dauter *(sic)* of C W and Ida Pratt Jan 20th 1881 (Family Register, above, gives the date as Jan. 29, 1881.)

In his wife's hand:

Charles W. Pratt died November 14, 1924

In my father's hand:

Son of John B and Nancy M. Pratt

In an unknown hand

Isaac Hoff and Fannie Fox married August 11th, 1852

In Mother's hand

Osbert A Pratt—Lizzie M. Knapp married June 22, 1904

In unknown hands

Martin Fox born July 24, 1785
Hannah Fox born June 27, 1783
Eliza Fox born March 26th, 1807
James L. Fox born Oct. 11th 1809
Fannie Fox born Dec. 11th 1812
Maryann Fox born July 5th 1814
Lucinda Fox born June 25th 1820
Martin Fox born Apr. 8th 1828

In Mother's hand

Osbert A. Pratt born Sept. 15, 1882
Lizzie M. Pratt born Feb. 1, 1880

THEIR CHILDREN

Kenneth Chas. Pratt born Mar. 16, 1905
Ida Faye Pratt born Nov. 15, 1906
Iva Eleanor Pratt born July 10, 1910
Clarence O. Pratt born Nov. 27, 1914
John B. Pratt born June 17, 1918
Ernest Alfred Pratt born July 4, 1920

In Father's hand

Lizzie M. Pratt died Aug. 1, 1947

The following are all in unknown hands

Martin Fox died June 17th 1865
Hannah Fox died Mar 13th 1868
Eliza F. Sharp died May 15th 1857
James L. Fox died Aug 16th, 1880
Martin Fox died Nov 6th 1887
Fannie Fox died Nov 6th 1897

William Cook and Lucinda Fox was married Nov 26th 1845
Osbert Luzern Cook to Julia E. Brokenshire Married Jan 17, 1872
Ida Emrill Cook to Charles W. Pratt married Feb 1, 1877

William Cook was born December 13th 1816
Lucinda Fox was born June 25th 1820
Osbert Luzern Cook was born Jan 17th 1847
Ida Emrill Cook was born July 24th, 1851
Sarah Elizabeth Cook was born December 9th 1854

Sarah Elizabeth Cook died October 28th 1880
Ida E. (Cook) Pratt died January 7th, 1902
William Cook died September 7, 1901

Martin Fox died June 17th 1865

Hannah Fox died March 13th 1868
Eliza F. Sharp died May 15th 1857

John Cook was born February 13th 1782
Catharine Cook was born February 13th 1785
William Cook was born December 13th 1816
Mary Cook was born August 1st 1821
Sarah Ann Cook was born December 20th 1825

John Cook died February 20th
Catharine Cook died July 30th 1849
Sarah Ann Reid died September 12th 1860

APPENDIX II

PRATT TOMBSTONES IN SHERMAN CEMETERY, MARION, NEW YORK

Our oldest ancestral tombstone in Marion is that of our great, great, great grandmother, Mary Barton Pratt (1742–1828). I have not yet made a thorough search for burial records and cemeteries in Cambridge, New York, or in Oxford, Framingham or Watertown, Massachusetts. This photo was taken by Ernest A. Pratt and his wife, Sue, in November, 1966.

PRATT TOMBSTONES IN SHERMAN CEMETERY, MARION, NEW YORK

A P D F 6th
1813 A 40
Y 4 M

"Abraham Pratt died Feburary 6th, 1813 age 40 years, 4 months." This is the tombstone of Abraham 2nd, first of the Pratt Colony of Marion. The inscription differs slightly from family records which show that he died on Feburary 6th, 1812, age 40 years, 4 months and 1 day. The family records are probably the more accurate.

J P D J 15th
1816 A 19
Y 15 D

"James Pratt died January 15th, 1816, age 19 years, 15 days." This is the eldest son of Abraham 2nd and appears in family records as "James, December 31, 1796–January 15, 1816. 19–0–15."

B P D F 6th
1821 A 20
Y 23 D

"Barton Pratt died February 6th, 1821, age 20 years, 23 days." This is the second son (fourth child) of Abraham 2nd and appears in family records as "Barton, January 13, 1801–February 6, 1821. 20–0–23."

MARY PRATT
Died Oct 6 1828
Ae 86 yrs

This is the oldest ancestor whose tombstone I have located so far. Illustrated opposite, it commemorates Mary Barton Pratt, wife of Abraham Pratt of Oxford, Massachusetts. She was born in

1742, had thirteen children and came to Marion after her husband died in Cambridge, New York about 1801. With her came, some before and some after, at least three sons, two daughters and five grandsons.

JOSEPH PENWELL
Died
May 4, 1859
Aged 88 Years
1 m & 8 d.

This is our great, great, great grandfather, born on March 26, 1771 who came early to Marion from New Jersey with his wife and infant daughter, Mary.

RACHEL,
Wife of
JOSEPH PENWELL
Died
Mar. 30, 1863
Aged 89 Years
10 Days

This is our great, great, great grandmother, born on March 20, 1774.

MARY,
Wife of
JOHN PRATT
Died
Aug 21, 1867
in her 75th Year

This is our great, great grandmother, born in New Jersey on January 4, 1793 who came with her parents, Joseph and Rachel Penwell to Marion at the turn of the Nineteenth Century.

JOHN PRATT

Died

June 30, 1871

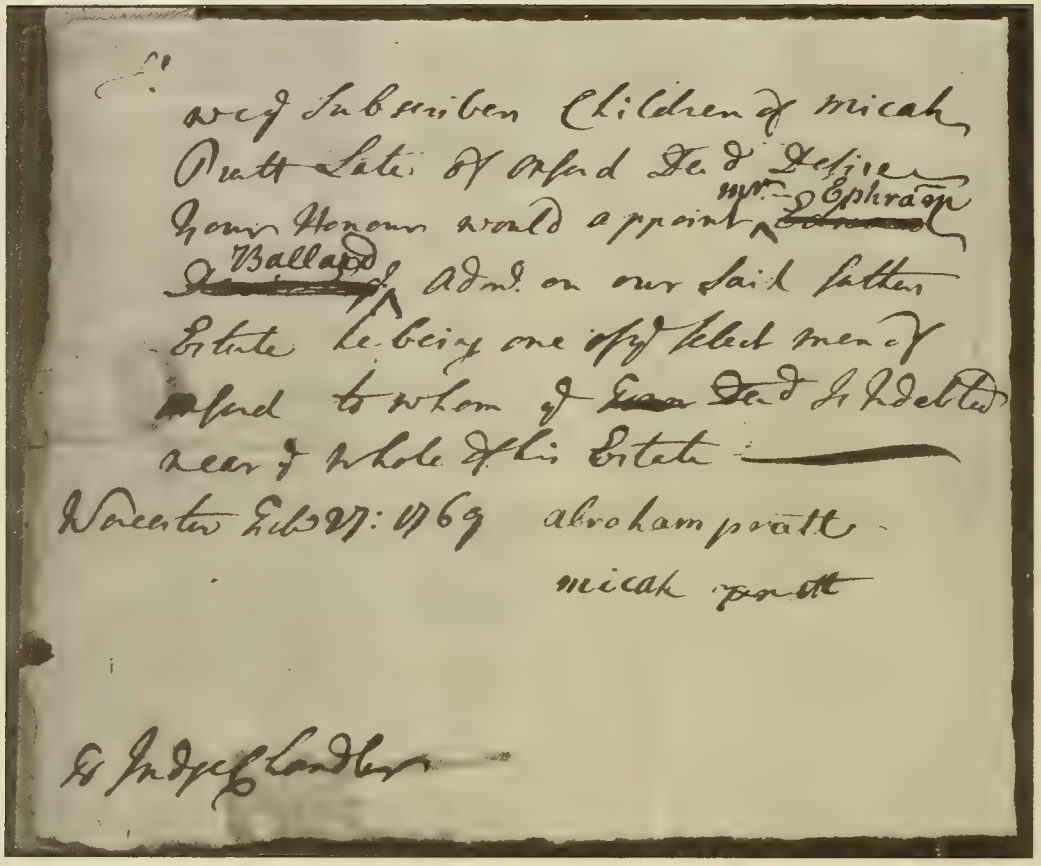
Aged 86 Years

1 m & 29 d.

This is our great, great grandfather, youngest child of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt, who was born in Cambridge, New York and who, with two brothers and two sisters, was among the first settlers of Marion.

APPENDIX III

SOME PRATT DOCUMENTS



We ye Subscriben Children of micah Pratt Late of Oxford Dec'd Desire your Honour would appoint Mr. Ephraim Ballard Adm. on our said father's Estate he being one of ye Select men of Oxford to whom ye Dec'd Is Indebted near ye whole of his Estate

Worcester Feb 27: 1769 abraham pratt

micah pratt

To Judge Chandler

This document, one of six, is filed on the estate of Micah Pratt under cover 47,741 in the Worcester County Surrogate's office, Worcester, Massachusetts. It is signed by two of Micah's surviving sons, Abraham and Micah Pratt and reads as follows:

Sr. We, ye Subscribers Children of Micah Pratt Late of Oxford Dec'd Desire Your Honor would appoint Mr. Ephraim Ballard Adm. on our Said father's Estate he being one of ye Selectmen of Oxford to whom ye Dec'd Is Indebted near ye whole of his Estate—Worcester Feb 27: 1769. To Judge Chandler.

SOME PRATT DOCUMENTS

IN ANY HISTORICAL RESEARCH much depends on the availability of public records—and finding them. My efforts to reconstruct family happenings of this line of Pratts were rewarded with amazing success.

Following are those I consider pertinent to the documentation of the foregoing narrative. I have placed them in chronological order, rather than in the order in which they were discovered. There are without doubt many others which I have not seen and I hope that some of my younger relatives will search them out. These will serve, however, to authenticate the facts as set forth, and provide plenty of clues to where others may be found. They are copied literally with their archaic spelling, capitalization and punctuation (or lack of it) intact.

RECORDS OF THE ESTATE OF MICAH PRATT

The Bond of Ephraim Ballard

Know all man by these Presents, That we, Ephraim Ballard, Yeoman & Alexander Nichols, Yeoman, Both of Oxford & Henry Ward of Worcester, Gentleman, all of the County of Worcester within His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England are holden and stand firmly bound and obliged unto John Chandler, Esq; Judge of the Probate of Wills and granting Administrations within the County of Worcester in the full Sum of One Hundred Pounds in Lawful Money of said Province to be paid unto the said John Chandler, his successors in the said Office or Assigns: To the true Payment whereof, we do bind ourselves, and each of us, our, and each of our Heirs, Executors and Administrators, jointly and severally, for the whole and in the whole, firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals. Dated the fourth day of March, Anno Domini, One Thousand Seven Hundred and sixty-Nine.

The condition of this present obligation is such, That if the above-bounded Ephraim Ballard is admitted Administrator on the Estate of Micah Pratt Late of Oxford aforesaid Yeoman deceased do make or cause to be made a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the Goods, Chattels, Rights and Credits of the said Deceased, which have or shall come to the Hands, Possession or Knowledge of him the said Ephraim or into the Hands and Possession of any other Person or Persons for him and the same so made, do exhibit or cause to be exhibited into the Registry of the Court of Probate for the said County of Worcester at or before the fourth day of June next ensuing; and the same Goods, Chattels, Rights and Credits, and all other the Goods, Chattels, Rights and Credits of the said Deceased, at the Time of his Death, which at any Time after shall come to the Hands and Possession of the said Ephraim or into the Hands and Possession of any other Person

or Persons for him do well and truly administer according to Law: And further do make or cause to be made a just and true Accompt of his said Administration upon Oath, at or before the fourth day of March which will be in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy. And all the Rest and Residue of the said Goods, Chattels, Rights and Credits, which shall be found remaining upon the said Administrator's Accompt (the same being first examined and allowed of by the Judge or Judges for the time being of Probate of Wills and granting Administrations within the County of Worcester aforesaid) and shall deliver and pay unto such Person or Persons respectively, as the said Judge or Judges by his or their Decree or Sentence pursuant to Law shall limit and appoint: And if it shall hereafter appear that any last Will and Testament was made by the said Deceased, and the Executor or Executors herein named do exhibit the same into the Court of Probate for the said County of Worcester, making request to have it allowed and approved accordingly; if the said Ephraim Ballard, within bounden being thereunto required, do render and deliver the said Letter of Administration (Approbation of such Testament being first had and made) into the said Court: Then the before written Obligation to be Void and of none Effect, or else to abide and remain in full Force and Virtue.

s/ Ephraim Ballard
s/ Alexander Nichols
s/ Henry Ward

Sealed and Delivered
in Presence of
s/ Clark Chandler
s/ Samuel Chandler

The Appointment of Appraisers

Province of the
Massachusetts-Bay Worcester ss.

To Jeremiah Learned, John Town, Jr., and Ebenezer Cutler, all of Oxford in the County aforesaid, Greeting.

You are hereby appointed and impowered on oath to make an Inventory of, and (according to your best Skill and Judgment) truly and justly to apprize (in Lawful Money of this Province) all the Estate whereof Micah Pratt, late of said Oxford, deceased died seized, in the aforesaid County; and you are to make Return of this Warrant, with your Doings thereon, unto the Probate Office, in the same County, as soon as conveniently may be as ye same shall be shewn to you by Ephraim Ballard, Administrator. Given under my Hand this fourth Day of March A. D. 1769.

s/ John Chandler
J. Prob.

Province of the }
Maſſachuſets-Bay. } ſſ.

To [illegible]

in the County aforeſaid, Greeting.

YOU are hereby appointed and impowered to make an Inventory of, and (according to your beſt Skill and Judgment) truly and juſtly to apprize (in Lawful Money of this Province) all the Eſtate whereof [illegible] late [illegible] died ſeized, in the aforeſaid County; and you are to make Return of this Warrant, with your Doings thereon, unto the Probate Office, in the ſame County, as ſoon as conveniently may be.

Given under my Hand this [illegible]
Day of [illegible] A. D. 17[illegible]

J. Prob.

This photostat of the document appointing the appraisers of the estate of Micah Pratt is an authentic example of Colonial Americana. Its content is recreated in the text opposite.

Return of the Appraisers

Worcester ss. Oxford March 7th 1769

In obedience to the Within Warrant we have appraised all the Estate of the within named Micah Pratt, Deceased, shown to us by the Administrator.

s/ Jeremiah Learned
s/ John Town, Junr.
s/ Eben Cutler

Accounting of the Estate of Micah Pratt

Oxford, April 30th 1770

The Estate of Micah Pratt Late of Oxford Deceased
To the Town of Oxford Dr for nursing Doctoring and Necessarys for him and his wife in their Last Sickness and funeral Charges

To cash paid Micah Pratt Junr	£6 : 0 : 0
To dito paid Daniel Hovey	2 : 0 : 8-1/2
To Micah Pratt Jnr	0 : 16 : 0
To Doctr Campbell	6 : 0 : 0
To Eben Cutler	21 : 14 : 10-1/2
To Ephraim Ballard for a Coffin	0 : 5 : 4
	36 : 16 : 11

(This account was certified by the Selectmen of Oxford April 30th 1770)

ABRAHAM PRATT'S CAMBRIDGE LAND PAPERS

RECORDS OF ABRAHAM PRATT in Oxford, Massachusetts ceased abruptly in 1768. An Abraham Pratt appeared in Cambridge Town, Albany County, New York in the 1790 Census, but there was nothing to link him to Oxford. This man's transactions for a parcel of land were, however, of interest in themselves, and since further evidence has identified him as our ancestor they become important documents in relating our history.

Before land measures had been drawn and enforced by local governments, a man was entitled to take up his acres in any area which he could—or thought he could—defend from the Indians by combat or from encroachers in the courts. In 1770 much of the land around Cambridge remained unappropriated, except that covered by grants and letters patent. Even so, the boundaries of the appropriated lands were often indistinct and uncertain in the wilderness. Thus it happened that when Abraham moved with his family from Oxford to Cambridge he selected a tract that had, at the time, no other claimant.

After the Revolution and the establishment of a nation independent of the rules and regulations of Mother England, former crown lands became the property of the states. New York had a great deal of land within its borders for which no one was likely to produce a valid claim. These lands, oftentimes including the lands formerly owned by British Loyalists, were designated public lands.

On February 25, 1789, the legislature of the State of New York passed an Act for the sale and disposition of these lands to individuals, thus creating a lucrative source of state income. On March

22, 1791 an amendment to the Act was passed which permitted New York to advertise in the public press for offers. Anyone willing to pay the State from one to three shillings per acre could get in return a State secured title.

The advertising appeared immediately. One petition refers to the advertisement of April 1, 1791. Another petition is that of Alexander Macomb, dated June 22, 1791. Macomb applied for a total of more than six million acres in three tracts. A third petition signed by Robert Livingston on July 4, 1791, offered one shilling per acre for six hundred thousand acres in Northern New York State. He was turned down and on August 2, 1791 raised his offer to two shillings half-penny, which was again rejected. However his offer for a township (thirty-six square miles) at the rate of three shillings sixpence was accepted.

Against this brief background of early land office operations appears the following petition of one Abraham Pratt, our great, great, great grandfather.

The Petition of Josiah Gilbert and Abraham Pratt

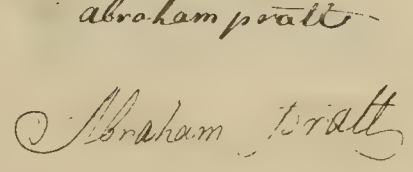
To Lewis A. Scott Esqr. Secretary and the Commissioners for the Land Office for the State of New York—

We your Petitioners pray that you would grant us a certain piece of wast and unappropriated Land situate lying and being in the County of Washington and Town of Cambridge a narrow gore of Land Three Miles and a half long and upward terminating to a sharp point on the East end by estimation about Four Hundred Acres the greater part ruff Broken Land lying south of the patent granted to Sawyer and others and east of the Patent granted to Reed and Quakingbush on the same gore of Land and North of Hosack Patent—

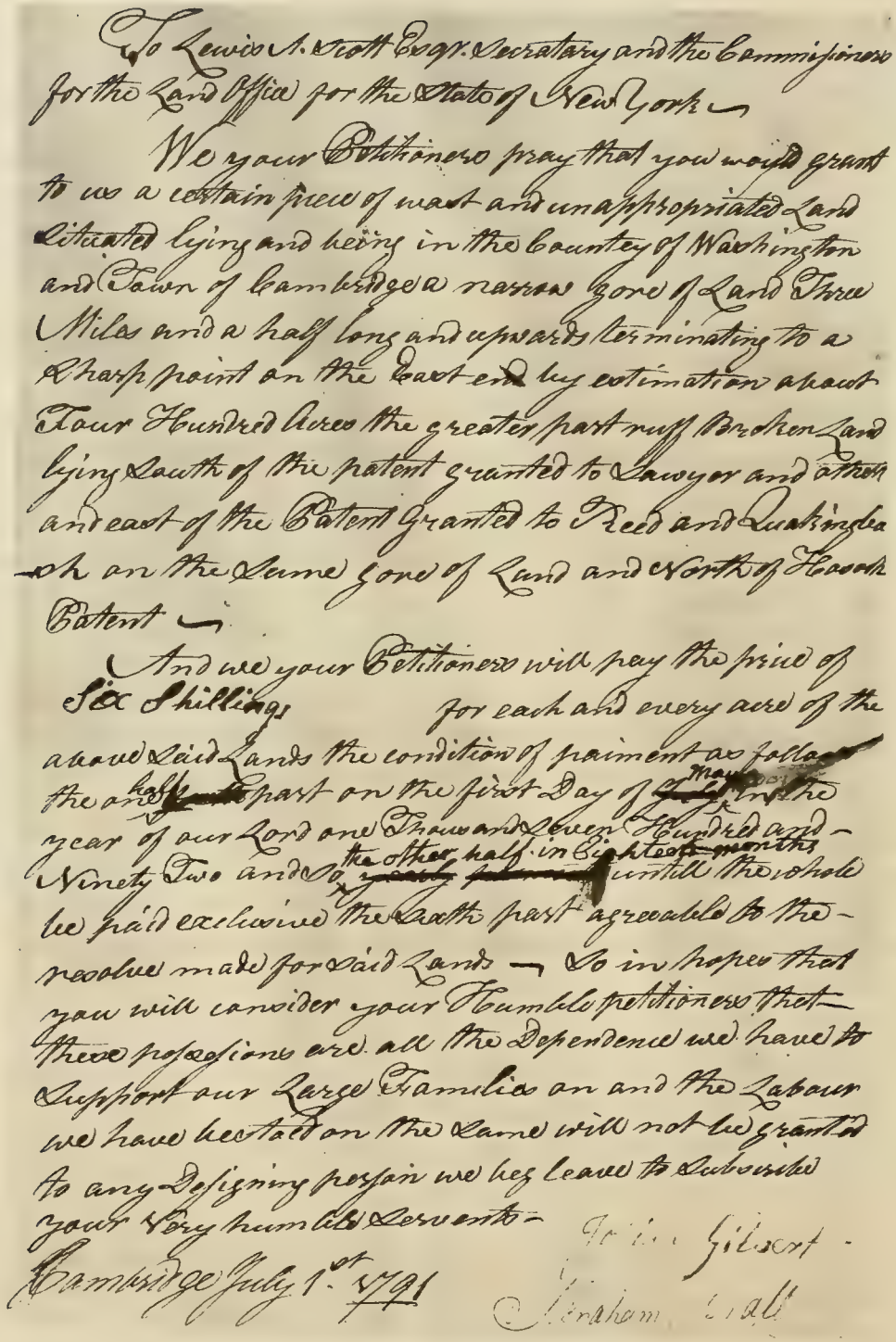
And we your Petitioners will pay the price of six shillings for each and every acre of the above said Land the condition of payment as follows the one half part on the first Day of May in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Two and the other half in Eighteen months until the whole be paid exclusive the sixth part agreeable to the resolve made for said Lands—so in hopes that you will consider your Humble petitioners that these possessions are all the Dependence we have to support our Large Families on and the Labour we have bestoed on the same will not be granted to any Designing person we beg leave to subscribe your very humble servents—

Cambridge July 1st 1791

s/ Josiah Gilbert
s/ Abraham Pratt



It is of some interest to compare these two signatures of the same man. Abraham signed the first to his petition for the appointment of an administrator for his father's estate. He was then twenty-nine years old. The second signature appears on the Land Petition twenty-two years later. At first glance they hardly look alike, but analysis shows many striking similarities. Capital letters were not always used at the time of the first signature.



To Lewis A. Scott Esqr. Secratary and the Commissioners for the Land Office for the State of New York —

We your Petitioners pray that you would grant to us a certain piece of wast and unappropriated Land situated lying and being in the Countey of Washington and Town of Cambridge a narrow gore of Land Three Miles and a half long and upwards terminating to a Sharp point on the East end by estimation about Four Hundred Acres the greater part ruff Broken Land lying South of the patent granted to Sawyer and others and east of the Patent Granted to Reed and Quakingbush on the Same gore of Land and North of Hosack Patent —

And we your Petitioners will pay the price of Six Shillings for each and every acre of the above Said Lands the condition of paiment as follows the one half part on the first Day of May in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Two and So the other half in Eighteen months untill the whole be paid exclusive the Sixth part agreeable to the resolve made for said Lands — So in hopes that you will consider your Humble petitioners that these possessions are all the Dependence we have to Support our Large Families on and the Labour we have bestoed on the Same will not be granted to any Designing person we beg leave to Subscribe your Very humble Servents —

Cambridge July 1st 1791

John Gilbert
Abraham Hall

This Petition is preserved in a many-volumed collection of Endorsed Colonial Land Papers in the New York State Library at Albany.

Philip Smith's Letter to Governor Clinton

His Excellency George Clinton Esqr
Governor of the State of N. York
Sir

We the subscribers being informed from undoubted authority that Josiah Gilbert and Abraham Pratt are persons of low Circumstances in life and that they are settled on a Certain small gore of Land lying between the pattent of Hoosick and a Patent granted to Sawyer and others in Cambridge containing between Three and Four Hundred acres of poor Quality that they are about to apply to the Commissioners of the Land office for the purchase of same we are highly convinced that every feeling of humanity bespeeks your Excellency's pathronage to assist them to the purchase—as they have been on the Land 6 or 7 years and have Large Families of Children.

and all their support is from the cultivation of this Land which if they should not obtain their improvements it would reduce them to the lowest state of poverty we are your Excellency most obedient and very humble servents

Cambridge July 1st 1791

s/ Philip Smith
s/ Thomas Dennis
s/ Gideon Bowdish
s/ John Fish
s/ Thos Smith

Certification by the Assessors

To Lewis A. Scott Esqr. secretary of the Land office and others for for the State of New York—

We beg leave to Certify that we the subscribers have known your Petitioners Josiah Gilbert and Abraham Pratt to have been in peacible possession of a certain piece of waste and unappropriated Land situate lying and being in the County of Washington and Town of Cambridge a narrow gore of Land the one half of which a hilly ruff and broken with ledges of rocks lying South of the Patent granted to Sawyer and others and East of the Patent granted to Reed and Quakingbush on the Same Gore of Land and north of Hosack Patent

Their possessions have been made seven years and upward who have built Houses and Barns planted orchards and paid Taxes for said Land Improved and unimproved and we further assert that the above named Josiah Gilbert and Abraham Pratt have the Character of good Honest men

Cambridge July 1st 1791

s/ Benjamin Duels
s/ Elisha Allen Assessors
s/ Shadrack Dennis
s/ John Weir Constable & Collector

Survey of the Land

Surveyor General's Office
Albany 29th November, 1791

Pursuant to a Resolve of the Commissioners of the Land Office dated the 13th day of July 1791 I have caused to be surveyed for Josiah Gilbert and Abraham Pratt All that certain Tract of Land

situate in the Town of Cambridge in the County of Washington Beginning in the South bounds of the fourth Tract of Land (called Cambridge) granted by Letters patent dated the twenty third day of July in the Year one thousand seven hundred and sixty one to Isaac Sawyer and others at the Northeast corner of a Tract of Land granted to Joseph Reade Junior and Wilhelmina Van Antwerp and running thence along the said Tract called Cambridge North eighty seven degrees East seventy two Chains South seventy four degrees East one hundred and sixteen Chains South fifty seven Degrees East one hundred and thirty eight Chains and South forty six degrees and thirty minutes East sixteen Chains and thirty links to the bounds of Hosick patent as the same has been heretofore run out Then along the said bound North fifty six degrees West sixty five Chains and fifty Links North sixty four degrees West one hundred Chains North seventy six degrees West seventy Chains and South eighty one degrees West eighty seven Chains to the said Tract of Land granted to Reade and Van Antwerp and then along the same North twenty three degrees West thirty four Chains to the place of Beginning containing four hundred and twenty two acres—And the same appears to be vacant and unpatented—

s/ Simeon DeWitt
Surveyor Genl

To His Excellency George Clinton Esqr
Governor of the State of New York & c
and The Honorable The Commissioners
of the Land-Office—

Letter to the Land Office

Dear Gentlemen
having an opportunity to send by the hand of Philip Smith our affairs respecting a Certain Gore of Land of which we have Resolve of your office on or about the 13th Day of July last and agreeable to your Direction the Surveyor General has surveyed the said Gore whose Certificate will accompany this Letter now we pray the Honorable Board will grant the above Gore of Land according to our request Lodged in your Office agreeable to the above Certificate—

We could not obtain a certificate untill the above Land was surveyed and this is the first opportunity since the (undecipherable word) has been Done

from Gen'men
your very humble serv'n
s/ Josiah Gilbert
s/ Abraham Pratt

To his Excellency George Clinton
Esqr Governor of the State of New York & c
and the Honorable Commissioners
of the Land office—
Cambridge December 17th 1791

Endorsements on the Letter

Two notes without dates or signatures appear upon the back of the above letter. The first reads "Return of survey for Josiah Gilbert & Abm Pratt for 420 acres in the Town of Cambridge and County of Washington, made in pursuance of a Resolution of the Board on the 13th July 1791—"

The second note endorsed on the back of the letter reads, "Since the above return was made it appears that John Bleeker is entitled to the same by virtue of a location—"

Some of the facts about prior ownership of the Abraham Pratt property in Cambridge are not a little obscure. Townsmen who knew them asserted their peaceable possession of the land long before the State stepped in and offered it for sale. Even the State surveyor considered it to be without prior title. Yet after the Resolution in favor of the Petition, subject to the survey, somebody found that John Bleeker of New York City was entitled to it and the State granted him Letters Patent more than a year after Gilbert and Pratt made their offer.

Copy of the Deed from Bleeker to Gilbert and Pratt

THIS INDENTURE made the fourth day of October in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Ninety two Between John Bleeker of the City of Newyork and Esther his wife of the one part and Josiah Gilbert & Abraham Pratt of Cambridge in the County of Washington & State of New York of the other part WITNESSETH that the said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and Twenty Six pounds Twelve Shillings Current money of the State of Newyork to them in hand paid by the said Parties of the second part at or before the Ensealing of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged Have Granted Bargained Sold Aliened Remised Released Enfeoffed and Confirmed And by these presents DO Grant Bargain Sell Alien Remise Release Enfeoff and Confirm unto the said parties of the second part in their actual possession now being) All that Certain Tract piece or parcel of Land Situate lying and being in the Town of Cambridge County of Washington East of Hudsons River which was granted to the said John Bleeker by letters patent under the great Seal of the State of New York bearing date the twenty Sixth Day of September last and for further description of the boundaries of the said Tract piece or parcel of Land reference being had to the said letters patent will more fully appear Containing by Estimation Four Hundred and Twenty two Acres of Land be the same more or less Together with all and singular the Messuages or Dwelling Houses Out Buildings Woods underwoods Trees Timber feeding advantages hereditaments Whatsoever to the said Tract piece or parcel of Land belonging or in anywise appertaining and the Reversion and Reversions Remainder and Remainders and also all the Estate Rights Title Dower Interest property possession Claim and Demand Whatsoever of the said parties of the first part of in or to the same premises hereby Conveyed with the Appurtenances TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Tract piece or parcel of Land and other the Premises with the Appurtenances hereby Granted and Released and every part and parcel thereof and the Reversion and Reversions Remainder and Remainders Rents Issues and profits thereof unto the said Parties of the second part their Heirs and Assigns forever to the sole and only proper use Benefit and Behoof of them the said parties of the second part their Heirs and Assigns for evermore And the said parties of the first part and their Heirs the

said Tract piece or parcel of Land hereby Conveyed and the Premises with the Appurtenances unto the said parties of the Second part their Heirs and Assigns against them the said parties of the first and their Heirs and every of them and against all and every other person or persons Whatsoever lawfully Claiming or to Claim the same by from or under them or any of them shall and will Warrant and for Ever defend by these presents In Witness Whereof the parties to these presents have hereunto Interchangeably set their Hands and Seals the day and Year firstwith written John Bleeker (LS) Esther Bleeker (LS) Sealed and Delivered in the presence of W Wood John Ray Be it remembered that on the fourth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Ninety two before me John Ray one of the masters in Chancery for the State of Newyork personally John Bleeker and Esther his Wife who severally acknowledged the sealed and delivered the within written Written Indenture as their voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned and the said Esther being examined by me privately and apart from her said husband acknowledged she executed the same without any fear threat or compulsion of her said husband And I having perused the said Indenture and finding therein no material erasures or interlineations (except the words September Last" on the twenty second line first page written on an erasure do allow the same to be recorded John Ray I certify the Aforegoing Copy to be taken from the original Deed Examined and Compared this 16th day of January, 1793

s/ Dr John McCrea Clerk

Copy of the Deed from Abraham and Mary Pratt to David Pratt

OF THE subsequent numerous land transactions of the Cambridge Pratts recorded in the County Clerk's Office Fort Edward, New York, two are important to the chronology of this story. The first is an 1800 deed; the second an 1802 mortgage. Sometime between these two transfers of interest Abraham Pratt died in his early sixties.

THIS INDENTURE made the third day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred between Abraham Pratt and his wife Mary Pratt of the County of Washington in the town of Cambridge and State of New York of the first part and David Pratt of the town of Cambridge County of aforesaid and State of New York of the second part Witnesseth that the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred Dollars (undecipherable word) money of account of the United States of America in hand paid at or before the ensealing and delivery of these presents by the said party of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged hath granted bargained sold aliened remised released conveyed assured enfeoffed and confirmed and by these presents doth grant bargain sell alien remise release convey assure enfeoff and confirm fully freely and absolutely unto the said party of the second part (in his actual possession and seizin now being) and to his heirs and assigns forever All that certain lot piece or parcel of land situate lying and being in the County of Washington east side of Hudson river being contained within the bounds of a certain tract piece or parcel of land formerly granted to John Bleeker by letters patent under the great seal of the State of New York bearing date the twenty sixth day of September in the year when John Bleeker received his letters patent under the great seal of New York State the herein granted premises butted and bounded is as follows and

begins at the southwest corner of Micah Pratt's land and runs from there south eighty one degrees west seven chains to a Stake and Stones on Hosuck patent line; thence due north twenty nine chains and twenty five links to a Stake and Stones; thence runs north eighty seven degrees east seven chains to Stake and Stones; thence runs due south twenty eight chains and fifty links to the place of beginning containing twenty acres of land; bounded south on Hosuck patent, west on Abraham Pratt, north on David Maccomber, and east on Micah Pratt. N. B. the above said party of the first doth agree with the above said party of the second part that if ever there should any commotion arise or alteration be made in overhalling said patent lines then in such case the above said party doth promise and agree to let the above said party of the second part move far enough on the west line to make him good his twenty acres of land: together with all and singular the appurtenances privileges and advantages whatsoever unto the said above mentioned and described premises in any way appertaining or belonging; and the reversion and reversions remainder and remainders rents issues and profits thereof; and also all the estate right title interest property claim and demand whatsoever as well in law as in equity of the said party of the first part of in and to the same or any part or parcel thereof with the appurtenances to have and to hold the above granted bargained and described premises with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns for their own proper use benefit and behoof forever. And the said party of the first part for himself his heirs executors and administrators doth covenant promise grant and agree to and with the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns that he the said party of the first part at the time of ensealing and delivery of these presents is lawfully seized in his own right of in and to the aforesaid described premises hereby granted and conveyed with the appurtenances as of a good sure perfect absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in the law in fee simple without any manner or condition to alter change determine or defeat the same; and hath in himself good right full power and lawful authority to grant bargain sell convey and release the above said described land and premises with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns in manner aforesaid; and also that he the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns shall and may from time to time and at all times and forever hereafter peaceably and quietly have hold occupy possess and enjoy the said hereby granted and bargained premises with the appurtenances; and also that the said party of the first part and his heirs and all and every other person or persons whomsoever lawfully or equitably deriving any estate right title dower jointure or interest of in or to the herein before granted premises by from under or in trust for him and them shall and will at any time or times hereafter upon the reasonable request of the said party of the second part his heirs or assigns and at the proper costs and charges in the law of the said party of the first part his heirs or assigns make do and execute or cause or procure to be made done and executed all and every such further and other lawful and reasonable conveyances and assurances in the law for the better and more effectually vesting and confirming the premises hereby intended to be granted in and to the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever as by the said party of the second part his heirs or assigns or his or their counsel learned in the law shall be reasonably devised advised or required. and the said party of the first part for himself his heirs executors and administrators do covenant grant bargain promise and agree to and with the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns that the above granted premises in the

quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns against all and every person and persons claiming or to claim by from or under him or them and every or any of them will warrant and forever defend the above said premises and every part and parcel thereof—In Witness whereof the said party of the first part have hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written—Abraham Pratt (LS) Mary Pratt (LS) signed sealed and delivered in the presence of Robert Miller Rathburn Miller.

Washington County ss; Be it remembered that on the first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and two personally appeared before me Edward Savage one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for said County Robert Miller one of the subscribing witnesses to the within indenture a person well known to me and being duly sworn on his oath declared that he saw Abraham Pratt and Mary Pratt signer of the within conveyance sign seal and deliver the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the purposes therein mentioned and I having examined the said Mary privately and apart from her husband she acknowledged that she executed the same freely without any fear or compulsion from her said husband all which is satisfactory evidence to me that the within conveyance was duly executed, and I having inspected the within conveyance and finding no material erasures or interlineations do allow the same to be recorded.

Edw Savage

I Certify the preceeding to be a true record of the original deed and of the Judge's Certificate of allowance thereon indorsed—Recorded August sixth 1810 at six oClock P. M.

s/ D. Shipner Clk.

Copy of the Mortgage of the Cambridge Property

ABRAHAM PRATT signed the above deed on October 3, 1800. He died within something less than two years. On July 1, 1802, when David Pratt brought the instrument to the Court of Common Pleas for formalization he produced not its maker but one of the witnesses. In Abraham's absence the witness, Robert Miller, swore on oath that he saw Abraham sign, seal and deliver the deed to David.

A month later, on August 9, 1802, Abraham's farm in Cambridge was mortgaged to his son Hiram Pratt by Hiram's mother, Mary, and his two youngest brothers, Darius and John Pratt. The description of the property definitely proves Abraham's death as having occurred prior to the date of the mortgage.

REGISTRY of a mortgage executed by Mary Pratt, Darius Pratt and John Pratt to Hiram Pratt. Names of the mortgagors: Mary Pratt, Darius Pratt and John Pratt both of Cambridge in the County of Washington and State of New York of the first part. Name of the mortgagee: Hiram Pratt of the town, County and State aforesaid, of the second part and to his heirs and assigns forever. Date of the mortgage: Ninth day of August in the year of our lord One Thousand, Eight hundred and two. Description and boundaries of the messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments mortgaged: All that certain piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the town of Cam-

Registry of a mortgage executed by Mary Pratt, Darius Pratt & John Pratt to Hiram Pratt

Names of the Mortgagors.	Name of the Mortgagee.	Date of the mortgage
Mary Pratt, Darius Pratt and, John Pratt both of Cambridge in, the County of Washington and, State of New York of the first part	Hiram Pratt of of the town. County and State aforesaid, of the second part and to his heirs and assigns forever.	Ninth day of Augus in the year of our Lor One Thousand, Eight hundred and two.

Description and boundaries of the messuages lands tenements or hereditaments (mortgaged,

All that certain piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the town of, Cambridge aforesaid, and on which Abraham Pratt late of said town resided, at the, time of his decease and lying between the patents of Cambridge and Hoosick And is bounded on the north by lands owned and possessed by John Allen, and on, the south by Philips Smith, On the east by Hezekiah King, and on the west by, John Allen, containing about One hundred and thirty four acres be the same more (or less

This Registry of the mortgage on Abraham Pratt's farm was found in Book E, page 17 of the Washington County Clerk's records at Fort Edward, New York in 1965. The second and third lines of the description indicate the approximate time of Abraham's death. Full text of the document appears opposite.

bridge aforesaid; and on which Abraham Pratt late of said town resided, at the time of his decease and lying between the patents of Cambridge and Hoosick And is bounded on the north by lands owned and possessed by John Allen, and on the south by Philip Smith, on the East by Hezekiah King and on the west by John Allen, Containing about One Hundred and thirty four acres be the same more or less. Mortgage monies and time or times when payable: Five hundred dollars—that is to say Two hundred and fifty dollars of said sum within One year from the twenty fifth day of December next, and the remaining sum of Two hundred and fifty dollars within two years from the said twenty fifth day of December next, all with interest from the date, according to the conditions of a certain bond or writing obligatory bearing even date herewith, executed by the said parties of the first part to the said party of the second part as a collateral security. Then these presents and the said bond or writing obligatory shall cease and be null and void. Record of the power to the Mortgagee to sell in fee contained in the said mortgage: But in case of the nonpayment of the said Five hundred dollars, or any part thereof at the times above limited for the payment thereof Then and in such case it shall and may be lawful for the said party of the second part, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, And the said parties of the first part do hereby empower and authorize the said party of the second part his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to grant, bargain sell release and convey the said premises with the appurtenances at public auction or vendue; and on such sale to make and execute to the purchaser or purchasers his or their heirs and assigns forever, good, ample and sufficient deeds of conveyance in the law, pursuant to the statute in that case made and provided, rendering the surplus monies (if any there be) to the said parties of the first part their heirs, executors or administrators after deducting the Costs and Charges, of such vendue and sale as aforesaid. In Witness Etc.

Which said mortgage was on the twenty third day of September in the year of our lord One thousand Eight hundred and two before Edward Savage one of the Judges of the Court of Common pleas for the County of Washington proved by the oath of Seneca Allen (one of the subscribing witnesses) who was identified by the oath of Philip Smith (a person known to the said Judge) who allowed the same to be recorded. I certify the preceeding to be a true registry of the aforementioned mortgage and of the power to the mortgagee to sell in fee therein contained. Registered the twenty fifth day of September in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and two at Eleven O'Clock in the forenoon of the same day.

s/ Garrit Wendell Clk

Excerpts from Estate Papers of Abraham 2nd Pratt

BECAUSE Abraham 2nd Pratt, next to the eldest surviving son of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt, was the first of the tribe to migrate to Marion it seems appropriate to include the following at this point:

Ontario County Surrogate Records 1812–'13. Vol. 6, page 159. The people of the State of New York by the grace of God free and independent to Hannah Pratt Relict of Abraham Pratt and Darius Pratt son* of the said Abraham Pratt late of the County of Ontario deceased—Whereas the

*Darius Pratt was the brother of Abraham 2nd Pratt, rather than the son.

said Abraham Pratt as is alleged died intestate having whilst living and at the time of his death goods chattels and credits within this State by means whereof the granting administration and also the auditing allowing and final discharging the amount thereof doth appertain unto us and we being desirous that the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased may be well and faithfully administered applied and disposed of do grant unto the said Hannah and Darius Pratt full power by these presents to administer and faithfully dispose of all and singular the goods chattels and credits which were of the said Abraham Pratt to ask demand recover and receive the debts which unto the said deceased whilst living and at the time of his death did belong; and to pay the debts which the said deceased did owe so far as such goods chattels and credits will thereunto extend and the law (undecipherable word) hereby requiring you to make or cause to be made a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased which have or shall come to your hands possession or knowledge and the same so made to exhibit or cause to be exhibited into the office of the Surrogate of the County of Ontario at or before the expiration of six calendar months from the date of these presents; and also to render a list and true account of Administration when thereunto required And we do by these presents depute constitute and appoint you the said Hannah Pratt and Darius Pratt administrators of all and singular the goods chattels and credits which were of the said Abraham Pratt deceased.

In testimony whereof we have caused the seal of office of our said Surrogate to be hereunto affixed Witness Reuben Hart Esquire Surrogate of our said County at Canandaigua the 4 day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and thirteen and of our Independence the thirty seventh—

Reuben Hart

Wills, Decrees & Etc. No. 10 1815 –1817, page 208.

The Estate of Abraham Pratt in account with the Administrators.

Amount of Inventory		$1085.90
Dr Paid		
David Sherman	$ 5.19	
John Greig	278.25	
Administrator for settling estate	30.00	
Harvesting grain	25.00	
Other items to a total of	$529.60-1/2	

Copy of the Deed from Ernest Augustus to Darius Pratt

THERE ARE MANY Pratt deeds of early dates on record at the County seat in Lyons, New York. Most of them I have not read because of travel and time limitations. This particular one to John Pratt's older brother, Darius, is of unusual interest to me for reasons that will become apparent as you read on. Others, too, may be as interesting for the same or similar reasons and I hope

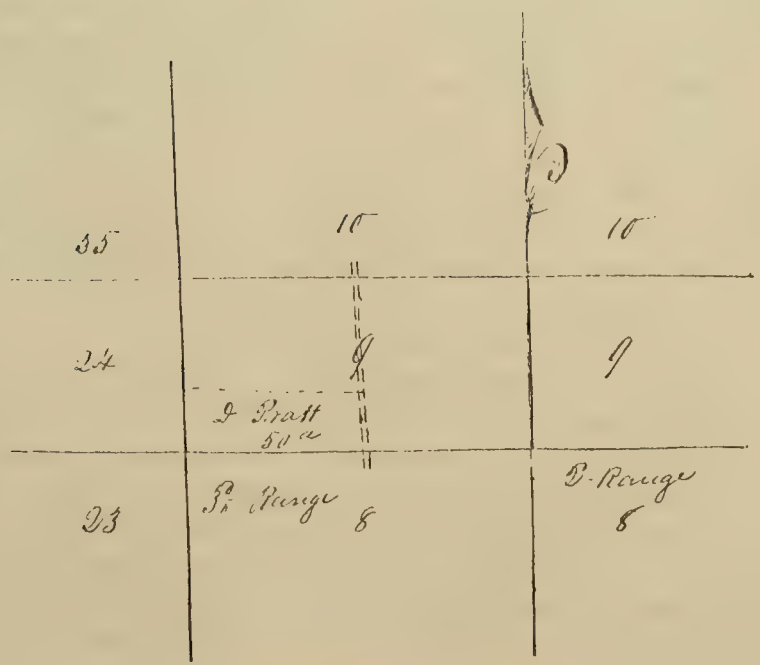
some day to be able to look them up. In the meantime perhaps some one else will have the interest and the inclination to delve into the records in the southeast corner of the County Clerk's Office. If so, I hope he lets me know.

THIS INDENTURE made the twelfth day of February in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixteen Between Ernest Augustus Duke of Cumberland, Charles Herbert Pierrepoint, Esquire, commonly called Viscount Newark, in that part of the United Kingdom of Great Bretian and Ireland called England; Masterton Ure Esquire, of Edenburg, in that part of the said United Kingdom, called Scotland, and Charlotte Johnstone of London in that part of the said United Kingdom called England of the first part and Darius Pratt of Williamson in the County of Ontario and State of New York of the second part, Whereas Sir John Lowther Johnstone, late of Wester-Hall, in the County of Dumfres, in that part of the said United Kingdom, called Scotland Baronet, was, in his life time, seized in fee of divers parcels of Real Estate, in the State of New York, whereof the premises hereby granted are parcel, and being so seized, did make and publish, in due form of law, his last will, bearing date the seventh day of August, in the year one thousand Eight hundred and Eleven, whereby he devised all the Real Estate whereof he was seized in the said State unto the said Ernest Augustus Duke of Cumberland; Charles Hurburt, Viscount Newark; and Masterton Ure, and their heirs and assigns, And whereas the said Sir John Lowther Johnstone, having so made and published this said last will, afterwards departed this life without revoking his said will, being still seized of the said Real Estate, and leaving the said Charlotte Johnstone his widow and relict. And whereas the said parties of the first part, have, by letter of Attorney, bearing date the ninteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, duly appointed and constituted Robert Troup of Geneva in said State, Esquire, their attorney with full power and authority to execute, in their names and on their behalves, good and sufficient Deeds of Conveyance to the purchasers of any part, or parts, of the said real estate; as by the said letter of attorney, or the record thereof in the secretary's office of the said State, in Lib: Deeds M R R, page 396 etc. reference being thereunto had will fully appear. Now Therefore, this Indenture witnesseth, that the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and twenty five dollars of lawful money of the said State, to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have and each of them hath granted, bargained, sold, aliened, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents do, and each of them doth grant, bargain, sell, alien, convey and confirm, by their said attorney, Robert Troup unto the said party of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns all that certain piece or parcel of land situate in the south west corner of lot number nine, in the third range of lots, in township number thirteen in the second range of townships in the town of Williamson and County of Ontario aforesaid and bounded as follows, West and South by the respective west and south lines of said lot, east by the highway and north by a line running parallel with said south line and so far north from the same as to include the quantity of fifty acres and no more, Reference being had to the plan annexed will more plainly appear, together with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtinances to the said premises belonging or in any wise appurtaining; and the reversion and reversions remainder and remainders, rents issues and profits thereof; and also, all the estate right title interest property, possession dower claim and demand both at law and in equity of them the said parties of the first

part and of each of them of in and to and out of the above granted premises and every part thereof, with the hereditaments and appurtinances aforesaid: to have and to hold the said granted premises with the hereditaments and appurtinances aforesaid, unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns to the sole and only proper use and behoof of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever. And the said parties of the first part, for themselves and their heirs by the said Robert Troup, their attorney, do, by these presents Jointly and severally covenant and agree with the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that they the said parties of the first part, and each of them and their and each of their heirs, the above granted premises and every part thereof, with the appurtinances, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against all and every person or persons, lawfully claiming or to claim the said premises or any part thereof with the appurtinances will forever warrant and by these presents defend. In witness whereof the said parties of the first part by their said attorney Robert Troup have hereunto set their hands and seals on the day and in the year first above written

Sealed and delivered in the presence of Joseph Fellows

Ernest
by Rob Troup LS
Newark
by Rob Troup LS
Masterton Ure
by Rob Troup LS
Charlotte Johnstone
by Rob Troup LS



State of New York SS I Benjamin I Dey a Master in Chancery in and for said state, do hereby certify, that on the twelfth day of February in the year one thousand Eight hundred and sixteen, personally appeared before me the within named Robert Troup, to me known to be the person described in and who executed the foregoing indenture as the attorney of Ernest Augustus Duke of Cumberland; Charles Herbert Pierrepoint Viscount Newark; Masterton Ure, and Charlotte Johnstone, the grantors within named, by virtue of the letter of attorney within referred to, and the said Robert acknowledged that he freely executed said Indenture as the act and deed of the said grantors respectfully for the uses and purposes therein expressed; And I allow the same to be recorded

Benjn I Dey

A true copy of the original, recorded July 20th 1826 at 7 o'clock P.M. and examined

s/ John Barber Junr Clk

Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland

Ernest Augustus was the descendant of a long line of British and Teutonic royalty. His remote ancestor was King James VI of Scotland who was also King James I of England from 1603 to 1625. James's daughter, Elizabeth, married Frederick V, Elector Palatine of the Rhine and their daughter, Sophia married Ernest Augustus, Elector of Hanover. Sophia and Ernest became the parents of the first of the German Kings of England, George I, who ruled from 1714 to 1727. He was succeeded by his only son, who occupied the throne as King George II from 1727 to 1760, but who never learned to speak the English language.

The eldest child of George II was Frederick, Prince of Wales, who died before his father, leaving six children. Frederick's oldest son became King George III upon the death of his grandfather in 1760 and ruled for sixty years. It was he, of course, who was the thorn in the side of the American Colonists and whose repressive acts brought on the Revolutionary War.

King George III married, in his youth, a German Princess, Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and produced eight children, all but two of them boys. Our Ernest Augustus, signer by attorney of the deed to Darius, was the fifth one of these boys. His father gave him the title of Fifth Duke of Cumberland, along with its estates and privileges, in 1799. Some dozen years later he was to inherit Johnstone's real estate and in 1816 to sell the parcel on Route 21 to Darius.

In 1837 Ernest Augustus was called to the throne of Hanover, where he reigned as King for fourteen years, until his death in 1851, the year after my grandfather was born. His son, King George V of Hanover, inherited both his kingdom in Germany and his dukedom in England. These later passed to his grandson, also named Ernest Augustus, who was born in 1845 and lasted until 1923, the year before Charles White Pratt died.

Our Ernest Augustus would not have become King of Hanover except for the fact that a woman, his niece Queen Victoria, was on the throne of England in 1837. Hanoverian

rules forbade a female as reigning monarch, which left the job to Ernest as the next male in the line of succession. When he took over it marked the end of a 123 year regime in which the Kings of Hanover had been at the same time the Kings of England.

In later generations of the same direct line another Ernest Augustus (1887–1953) married Victoria Louise Hohenzollern and their son, the current Ernest Augustus, who was born in 1914, was thus the grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm of World War I. In 1955 he successfully claimed British citizenship and was upheld by the House of Lords in 1956. I do not know if Queen Elizabeth has restored the title of Duke of Cumberland to him. If anyone is interested it should be easy to find out.

PETITION FOR ADMINISTRATION. REPUBLICAN PRINT. LYONS, N. Y.

TO THE SURROGATE OF THE COUNTY OF WAYNE:

The petition of Henry A. Pratt respectfully showeth:

That John Pratt died a natural death at Marion in the County of Wayne on or about the 29th day of June 1872: That the said John Pratt was an inhabitant of the said County of Wayne, at or immediately previous to his death: That no last will and testament of the said deceased has been found or discovered, to the knowledge of your petitioner, and your petitioner believes that the said John Pratt died intestate: That your petitioner has, to the best of his ability, estimated and ascertained the value of the personal property of which the said deceased died possessed, and that the same does not exceed the sum of about one hundred dollars:

That the said intestate left no widow but sons surviving and left next of kin, whose names and places of residence are as follows: Joseph Pratt who resides at Williamston Michigan, [illegible] Weaver, of Williamson N.Y., John B. Pratt of Williamson N.Y. Sarah Colliston of Gun Plain Mich., William S. Pratt of Marion N.Y., Henry A. Pratt your petitioner, Thankful A. Cronk of Williamson N.Y., Mary M. Cornish of Williamson N.Y., Alonzo Brightman of Rochester N.Y. Milo Brightman whose place of residence is unknown, David Brightman of Poughkeepsie N.Y. Sarah Fillmore of Williamson N.Y.

Your petitioner further showeth, that he is of full age; and prays that letters of administration may be granted to him of the goods, chattels, and credits of the said deceased.

And your petitioner will ever pray, &c.

Dated this 5th day of December 1874

Henry A. Pratt

Upper portion of Henry A. Pratt's petition for administration of John Pratt's estate, filed in the Surrogate's Office at Lyons, New York. The obliterations in this copy are spelled out in the text, opposite.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN PRATT

TO THE SURROGATE OF THE COUNTY OF WAYNE:

The petiton of Henry A. Pratt respectfully showeth:

That John Pratt died a natural death at Marion in the County of Wayne on or about the 29th day of June, 1872: That the said John Pratt was an inhabitant of the said County of Wayne at or immediately previous to his death; That no last will and testament of the said deceased has been found or discovered, to the knowledge of your petitioner, and your petitioner believes that the said John Pratt died intestate: That your petitioner has, to the best of his ability, estimated and ascertained the value of the personal property of which the said deceased died possessed, and that the same does not exceed the sum of about one hundred dollars;

That the said intestate left no widow him surviving and left next of kin, whose names and places of residence are as follows:

Joseph P. Pratt who resides at Williamston, Michigan, Mary Weaver, of Williamson., N.Y., John B. Pratt of Williamson, N.Y., Sarah Colliston of Gun Plain, Mich., William S. Pratt of Marion, N.Y., Henry A. Pratt, your petitioner, Thankful A. Cronk of Williamson, N.Y., Mary M. Cornish of Williamson, N.Y., Alonzo Brightman of Rochester, N.Y., Milo Brightman whose place of residence is unknown, David Brightman of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Sarah Fillmore of Williamson, N.Y.

Your petitioner further showeth that he is of full age; and prays that letters of administration may be granted to him of the goods, chattels, and credits of the said deceased. And your petitioner will ever pray, &c. Dated this 5th day of December, 1874

s/ Henry A. Pratt

State of New York
Wayne County ss:

On this 5th day of December 1874, before the undersigned Notary Public of the County of Wayne, personally appeared the above named petitioner, who being by me duly sworn did say that he had heard read the foregoing petition by him subscribed, and knew the contents thereof, and that the same is true of his own knowledge, except as to those matters therein stated to be on information and belief, and as to these matters he believes it to be true.

s/ Henry R. Taber Notary Public
Wayne County

Wayne County — ss:

I, Henry A. Pratt do solemnly swear and declare that I will well, honestly and faithfully discharge the duties of administrator of the goods, chattels and credits of John Pratt deceased, according to law.

Sworn this 5th day of
December 1874, before me,
s/ Henry R. Taber
Notary Public
Wayne County.

s/ Henry A. Pratt

John Pratt's Heirs

Five of John's children (Mahala, Horace, Catyann, Rachel Maria and Hiram) apparently were dead when this document was prepared. Of the grandchildren cited, the Brightmans were sons of Rachel Maria. Mary M. Cornish may have been Mahala's daughter, since Mahala married John Dunlap and named her fourth child Mary. Sarah Fillmore may have been Horace's daughter. He married Nancy Porter and they named the first of their three children Sarah.

MANUSCRIPT OF FRANCES A. PRATT WOOD

THIS HISTORICAL SKETCH of her grandfather and his parents was written by the daughter of James Anson Pratt in 1928 and is preserved in the files of the Wayne County Historical Society, Lyons, New York. The full text follows.

Ezra Pratt, son of Micah and Ruth Thornton Pratt, born August 25, 1797 at Cambridge, Washington County, was left without a mother at an early age. He was one of three sons. His brothers were Amos and Ira Pratt. Ezra joined an emigrant train, through dense woods, to Sodus, New York at the age of 16 years. Sodus only a small hamlet in the woods, with a trail and footpath. He was employed by a manager of a general supply store for several years, later going to Williamson. In the early twenties he married Ann Reeves of Williamson, their marriage—Oct. 3rd 1820.

He, with his brother Ira, took up a home-stead claim in the town of Arcadia, about two miles north of what is Newark of today. They cut timber, built a log house consisting of a living room with a fireplace and brick oven, a small pantry, one bedroom and what was called a recess or alcove—place for a bed.

Ira lived with them for many years. When company came to stay over night, one of the beds was divided and Ezra and Ann slept on the floor—so I have heard grandfather say.

The timber was cut—felled in windrows and burned when dried. There James Anson, Ira, Sarah and Amanda and Charles A. was born. Later a commodious house was built, considered fine in those days. The house stands today on the old home farm. Also barns and sheds.
Later—

Apple trees were grown from seeds brought from the East. As the boys, Anson and Ira grew up they helped work the farm, working in Newark and vicinity winters. Father (Anson) clerked for several years in the Orin Blackmer general store, Newark, N.Y.

James Anson Pratt and Margaret Ann Soverhill was married in 1848, living on the Pratt home-

stead one year—from there moved to Mud Mills on the Soverhill farm, where Frances A. was born.

Ira Pratt and Margaret Hoffman were married later, do not know the date. Margaret Hoffman Pratt only lived a few years. Later Ira married Maria Paine of Lyons who survived him.

Sarah married Harrison Darland. Amanda married James Ryder. Charles Andrew married Hariette Whiting.

I remember the family gatherings, usually New Year's Day, with such wonderful feeds. Sometimes roast goose, other times a turkey. Grandmother (was) an expert in raising a goodly number of both each year. (Not much as a family history as there is much forgotten)

This written by Francis A. Pratt Wood, Sodus, New York, March 18th, 1928. (Joseph Wood 2nd husband of Frances A.)

A further note appears overleaf, in pencil:

The general store where grandfather (Ezra) Pratt worked when he came to Sodus at the age of 16 years was located where the S. B. Williams store stands today. The nearest mill and supplies was at Geneva—going with oxen over a trail. The country here was a vast wilderness at that time.

APPENDIX IV

A RECORD OF SOME OF THE DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM AND MARY BARTON PRATT 1740–1890

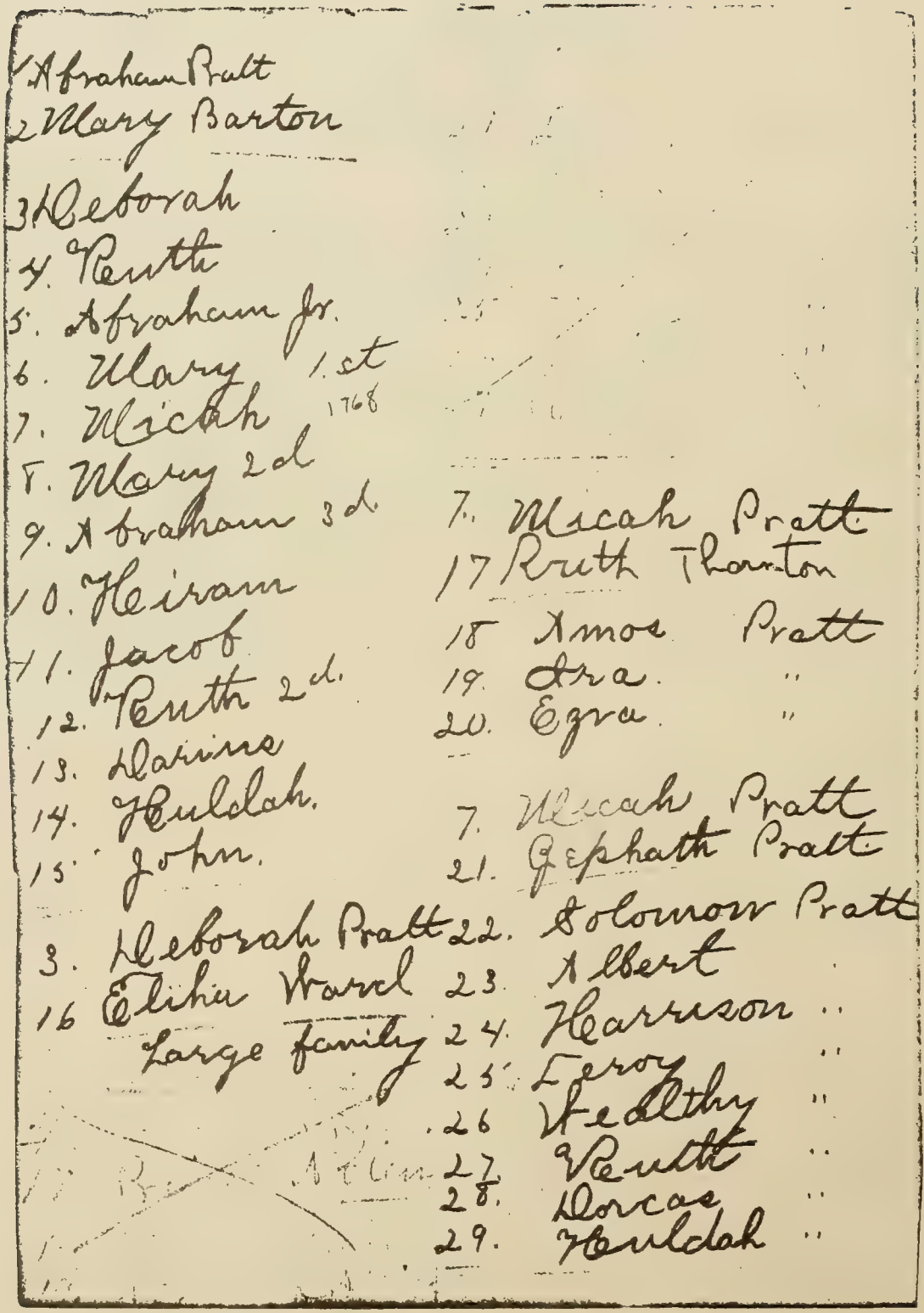
A RECORD
OF SOME OF THE DESCENDANTS
OF
ABRAHAM AND MARY BARTON PRATT
1740–1890

THIS REPRODUCTION is from a manuscript found in mid-twentieth century in the original cobblestone section of the old Pratt homestead on Eddy Ridge Road in Williamson, New York, by Martha Pratt Wood. Mrs. Wood is a great, great, great granddaughter of Abraham Pratt, born in Oxford, Massachusetts, on February 26, 1740.

The manuscript contains a single date, July 3, 1890, but this is probably the date of the last revision for a study of the handwriting suggests that it is the work of more than one person. Corrections, erasures and omissons are apparent in the original.

The age and fragility of the document precluded the possibility of making direct copies. One photo-facsimile was obtained and this has been severely but carefully retouched to retain the character of the original.

Within the context of recorded facts about this branch of the Pratt family the manuscript preserves an almost complete genealogy of four generations in Wayne County, New York. Antecedent records go back to the early sixteen hundreds. Descendant records are now easily brought up to date. Thus the manuscript is invaluable in linking the present with the past for this family.


Abraham Pratt
Mary Barton

3. Deborah
4. Ruth
5. Abraham Jr.
6. Mary 1st
7. Micah 1768
8. Mary 2d
9. Abraham 3d
10. Heiram
11. Jacob
12. Ruth 2d.
13. Darius
14. Huldah.
15. John.

3. Deborah Pratt
16 Elihu Ward
Large family

7. Micah Pratt
17 Ruth Thornton
18 Amos Pratt
19. Ira. "
20. Ezra. "

7. Micah Pratt
21. Ephath Pratt
22. Solomon Pratt
23. Albert
24. Harrison "
25. Leroy "
26 Healthy "
27. Ruth "
28. Dorcas "
29. Huldah "

8. Mary Pratt 2d
30. Samuel Carlisle

9. Abraham Pratt 3d
31. Hannah McCumber

32. Lydia Pratt
33. James "
34. Mary "
35. Barton "
36. Hesson "
37. Alanson "
38. Emily "
39. Clark "
40. Abraham Washington

10. Hiram Pratt
41. Rachel Allen.

42. Elisha Pratt
43. Seneca "
44. Hiram "
45. Ruth "
46. Harriet "

11. Jacob Pratt
47. Mary Baldwin

48. Walden Pratt.
49. Sydney "

50. Hiram Pratt
51. Serepta "

12. Ruth Pratt 2d.
52. Prince Allen.

53. Asha Allen
54. Abraham "
55. Hiram "
56. Lyman "
57. Seneca "
58. Harriet "
59. Lydia "
60. Mary "
61. Julia "
62. Esther "

13. Harris Pratt
63. Phebe Baker

64. Asel Pratt
65. Livia
66. Laura
67. Preston "
68. Sydney "
69. Laurinda "
70. Lizabeth "
71. Harriet Lavina
72. Harris "
73. Phoebe "
74. Mary "
75. Abraham "

14. Huldah Pratt
76. Josiah Wright
77. Ruth Wright
78. Enos. "
79. George "
80. Stephen "
81 Prudeann "
82. Abraham "
83. Mary "

15: John Pratt
84 — Liscon
85: Mahala Pratt
86. Horace "

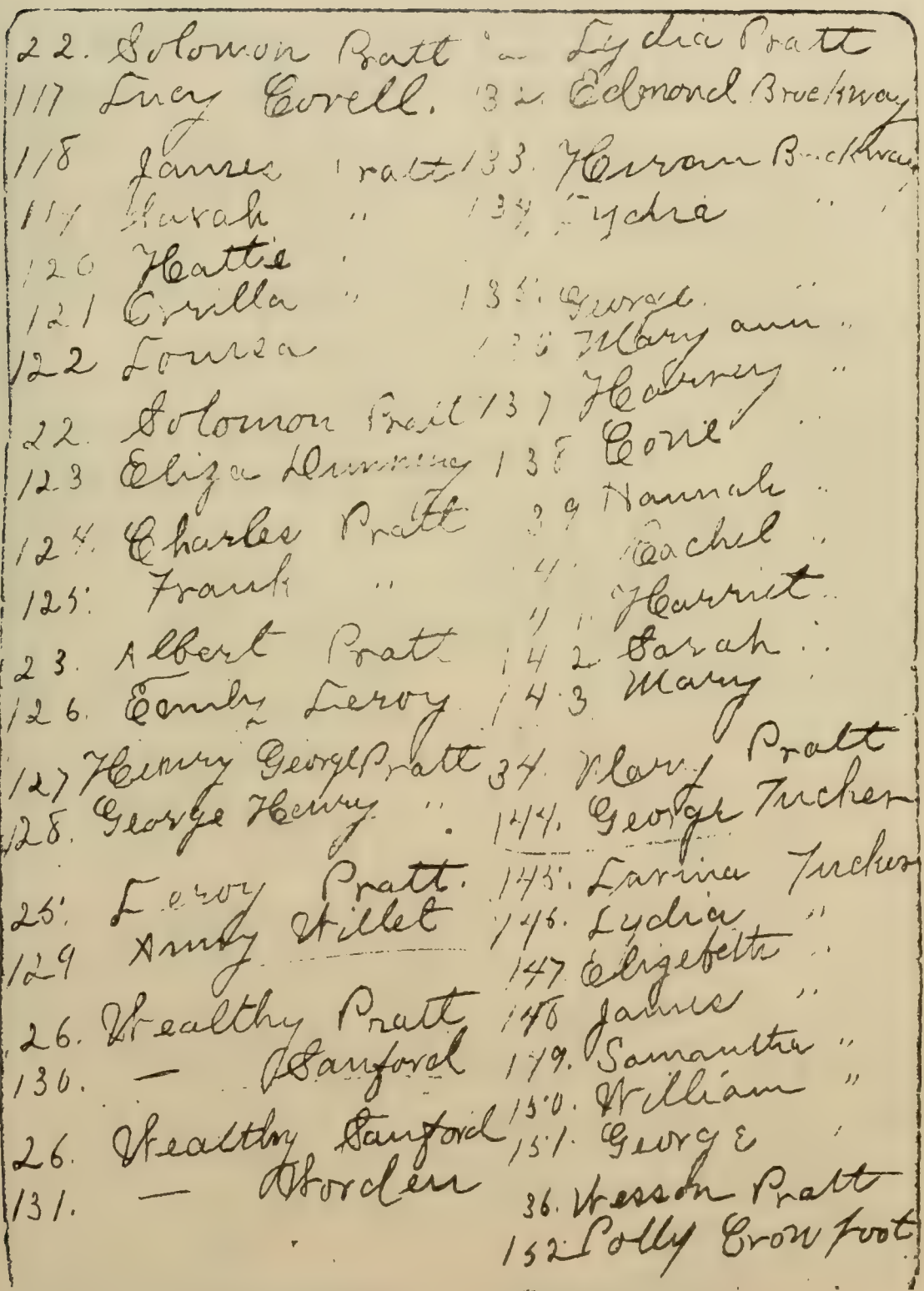
15: John Pratt
87. Mary Pennel
88. Joseph Pratt
89. Katyama "
90. John B. "
91 Mary "
92. Henry "
93 Maria "
94 William "

95. Sarah Pratt
96 Thankful "

18. Amos Pratt
97. Corina Phelps
98 Mary Pratt
99 Juliet
100 Esmond
101 Phoebe

19. Ira Pratt
102. Rachel Twist
103. Isaac Pratt
104 Louisa "
105 Lorenzo "
106 Angelina "
107 Hiram
108 Harriet
109 Myron "
110. Morrison "

20 Ezra Pratt
111. Anne Reeves
112. Anson Pratt
113. Ira
114. Sarah "
115. Amanda "
116. Charles "



22. Solomon Pratt
117 Lucy Covell.
118 James Pratt
119 Sarah "
120 Hattie "
121 Orrilla "
122 Louisa
22. Solomon Pratt
123 Eliza Dunning
124. Charles Pratt
125. Frank "
23. Albert Pratt
126. Emily Leroy
127 Henry George Pratt
128. George Henry "
25. Leroy Pratt.
129 Amy Willet
26. Wealthy Pratt
130. — Sanford
26. Wealthy Sanford
131. — Worden

Lydia Pratt
132. Edmond Brockway
133. Hiram Brockway
134. Lydia "
135. George "
136 Mary ann "
137 Harvey "
138 Cone "
139 Hannah "
140. Rachel "
141. Harriet "
142. Sarah "
143 Mary
34. Mary Pratt
144. George Tucker
145. Larina Tucker
146. Lydia "
147 Elizabeth "
148 James "
149. Samantha "
150. William "
151. George "
36. Wesson Pratt
152 Polly Crowfoot

36 Wesson Pratt
153 Catharine Mason
154 Abraham W Pratt
155 Alanson "
156 Mary Jane "
157. Sarah Emily "

37. Alanson Pratt
158. Samatha Harden
38. Emily Pratt
159. Thomas J. Peer.
160 Hannah Peer
161. Barton P. "
39. Olive Pratt.
66 James Pratt.
162. Sydney Pratt
163 Emily "
164 Myron "
165. Hannah "
40. Abraham W. Pratt
166. Cynthia Ann Keen
167. Alanson Pratt
168. Emily "
169 Abraham "

62. Esther Allen
68 Sydney Pratt
170. Juliet Pratt
171. Frankie
65. Gina Pratt
[illegible] Harriet Peer
No family

[illegible]6. James Pratt
39. Olive Pratt.
162 Sydney Pratt
163 Emily "
164 Myron
165 Hannah
68. Sydney Pratt
62. Estes Allen
170. Juliet Pratt
171. Frankie
69. Lurinda Pratt
173. David Peer
174. Preston Peer.
175. Diantha "

70. Lizebeth Pratt
176 — Walden

71 Harriet Lavina Pratt
177 Isaac Anthony
Two children

85. Mahala Pratt
178. John Dunlap
179. Josiah Dunlap
180. Lavina "
181 Louisana "
182. Mary "

86. Horace Pratt
183. Nancy Porter
184. Sarah Pratt
185. John "
186 Harriet "

88. Joseph Pratt
187. Sarah Howell

88. Joseph Pratt
188. Sarah Cruthers

189 Hiram Pratt

88 Joseph Pratt.
190. Mrs Courtwright
91 David Pratt
192 Seneca "
193. Rachel "
194 John H "

90. John B. Pratt
195. Nancy Hall
196. Alfred Pratt
197. Charles "

91. Mary Pratt
198. Benj. Wheater
199. Wealthy Wheater
200. John "
201. William "
202. Hiram

91. Mary Pratt
203. Weaver.

92. Henry Pratt
204. Mrs Eliza Comish

205. Charles Pratt

93 Maria Pratt
206. Abel Brightman
207. Egra Brightman
208. David
209. Philo.
94. William Pratt
210. Sarah Howell
211. Frank Pratt
212. Edward
213. Daniel "
214. Harriet "
95. Sarah Pratt
215. Jim. Colston
96. Thankful Pratt
216 Hiram Crouk
217. Mary Crouk
218. Allison "
219. Alice "
220. Adelia "
77. Keith Wright
221. John L. Mason
222. Maria Mason
223. Jerusia "
224. Harriet "
225. Prudeann "

226. Caroline Mason.
227. Martha
228. James
229. Nelson
230. Melvin
231. Enos Wright.
232. — Lakey.
70. Steven Wright
233. — — Hicky
58. Harriet Allen
233. Joseph VanHercer.
234. Henry VanHercer
93. Mary Pratt.
235. Seymour Strong
99. Juliet Pratt
236. Fred Russel
237. Carlo Russel.
338. Ethel .. (boy)
100. Esmond Pratt
239. Mary Jane Howell
240. two girls
241

101 Phoebe Pratt
236. Fred Russel

103 Isaac Pratt
242. Lydia Dean
243. Jerome Pratt
244 Ira

103. Isaac Pratt
245. Anne Wake
246. Pratt
247. "
248 "
249. "
250. "
251. "

104 Louisa Pratt
252. Wm. Eggleston
253. Avery Eggleston
254 Grant "
255. Girl "

105. Lorenzo Pratt
256 Mary Chapel
257. Clark Pratt
258. Harriet "

259 Pratt
260 "

116. Angelina Pratt
261. James Wake
262. Linark Lb. Wake
263. Essie "

107. Harriet Pratt
264 Wilbur Murfee
265 Grace Murfee
266. Clarence "

119 Ulyssa Pratt
267. Holmes

109. Ulysses Pratt
268. Holmes
269. Eugene Pratt

110. Morrison Pratt
270. Elizabeth Sovereign

271. Byron Pratt
272. Gertie "
273 Anna "
274 Ella "
275 Leland "

112 J. Anson Pratt
276. Margret Sorenhill
277. Francis Pratt
278. Charles "

113. Ira Pratt
279. Margret Hoffman

113. Ira Pratt
280. Maria Payne
281 Minnie Pratt

114. Sarah Pratt
282 Harrison Harland
283. Alphonzo Harland

115. Amanda Pratt
284. James Rides

116. Charles Pratt
285 Hattie Whiting

155. Alanson Pratt
286. Martha Reeves

287. Arthur S. Pratt
288. Clarence R. "
289. M Lillian "
290. Millie R. "

160. Hannah Peer
291 Zebina Crane

292. Dewitt Crane
293. Emma "
294 Mary
295. Alonzo "

161. Barton P. Peer
296. Lourania Merrill
297.
298.

170 Juliet Pratt
299 Wm See
380 Frank

176. Francis Pratt 200 John Wheeler
301. Alden Williams 317.

302. girl Williams

174. Preston Pease 211 William Wheeler
5th 9 Lydia Allen 318. Dell Brock.

175. Diantha Pease 211. Frank Pratt
303. Annie Skellenger 319.
304. Mary Skellenger
305. Harriet " 212. Edward Pratt
306. Grant " 320.
307. Fred "
308. Frank " 213. Daniel Pratt
309. Ada " 321.
310. " 322. girl.

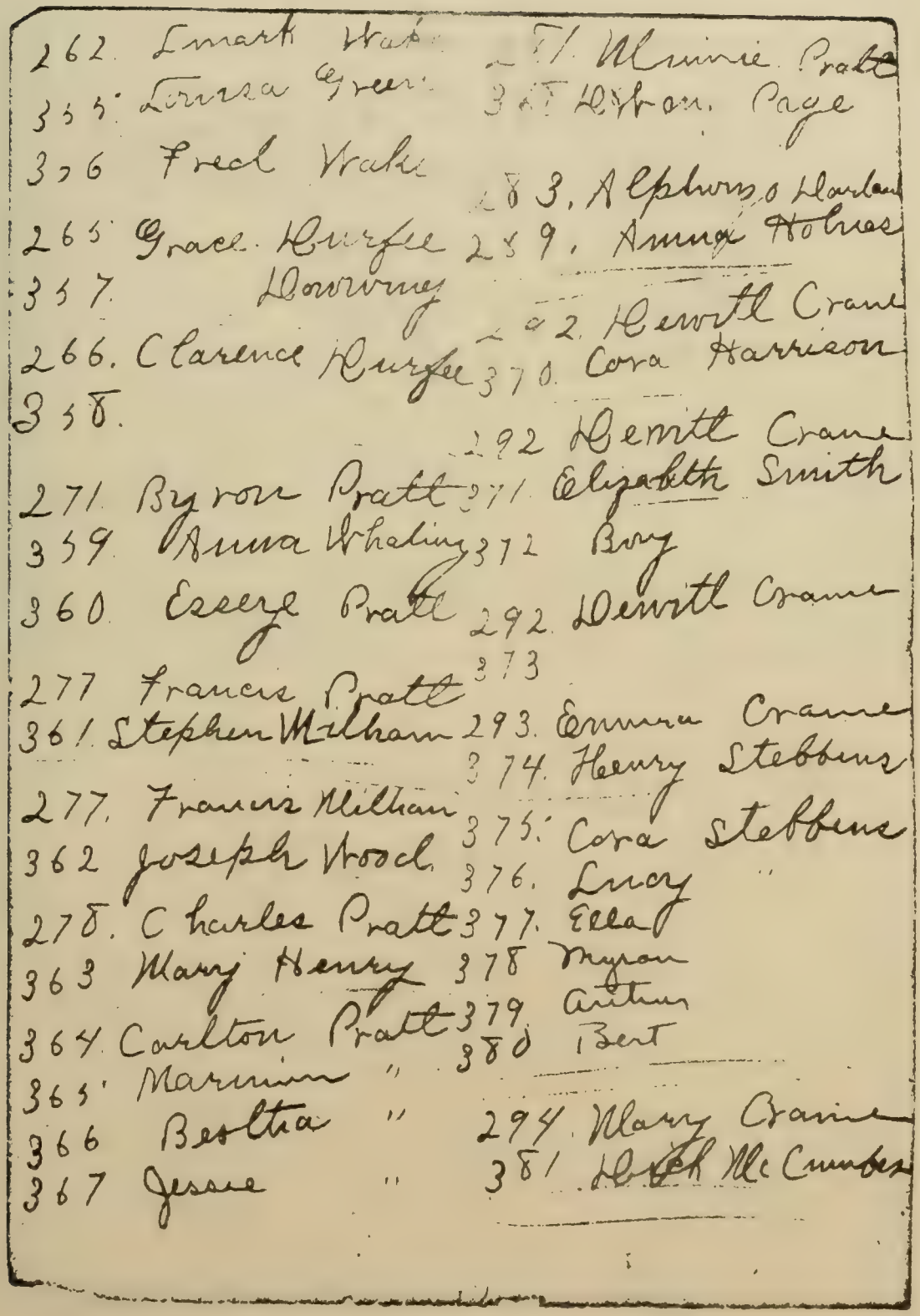
196. Alfred Pratt 214. Harriet Pratt
311. Nellie Phelps 323.

312 Charles Pratt
313. "
314. Eva "

214. Harriet Pratt
324.

197. Charles Pratt 217. Mary Crook
315. Ida Cook. 325. Frank Nottingham
316. Albertia Pratt

218. Allison Crouk
326. Emma Petty
327. girl
220. Addie Crouk
328. George Cooper
329. girl
222. Maria Mason
330. Samuel Mean
222. Maria M Mean
331. Robert Warren
223. Jerusia Mason
332. Ora Clark
333. Boy
334. girl
224. Harriet Mason
335. Ezekiel Clark
224. Harriet Clark
336. Wm. Howell
225. Prudeann Mason
337. Theodore Finley
338.
339.
340. 3 boys & 1 girl
341
26. Carolina Mason
342 Jermiah Clark
343 James Clark
Fred
boy
27. Martha Mason
337. Theodore Finley
340
347
228 James Mason
348 Stevens
349
350
351
229. Nelson Mason
352 Hart
229. Nelson Mason
353. Melissa Nash
230. Melvin Mason
354.



262. Lmark Wake
355. Louisa Green
356 Fred Wake
265 Grace Durfee
357. Downing
266. Clarence Durfee
358.
271. Byron Pratt
359 Anna Whaling
360 Essey Pratt
277 Francis Pratt
361. Stephen Milham
277. Francis Milham
362 Joseph Wood
278. Charles Pratt
363 Mary Henry
364. Carlton Pratt
365 Marinin "
366 Bertha "
367 Jessie "

281. Minnie Pratt
368 Dwan. Page
283. Alphonso Harlan
289. Anna Holmes
292. Dewitt Crane
370. Cora Harrison
292 Dewitt Crane
371. Elizabeth Smith
372 Boy
292. Dewitt Crane
373
293. Emma Crane
374. Henry Stebbins
375. Cora Stebbins
376. Lucy "
377. Ella
378 Myron
379. Arthur
380 Bert
294. Mary Crane
381 Dick McCumber

121 Orrilla Pratt Munson Geauga Co Ohio
Henry Warner
Harriet Lucy
Raymond Merritt
agnes

122 Louisa Pratt died 14 yrs. old

23 & 126 their chil. Emory, Marion, Edwin, Amelia, & twins

130 amos sanford

131 ——— worden

17. Ruth
21 Zephath Pratt (July 3. 1890 sarah baker helped me. etc
84 Lescian

119 Sarah Jane Pratt Lincoln
Frank & Baker 2929 ? st
Rosy Irene Baker
Samuel Saloman Salmon Pratt
Ira Frank "

118 James Pratt New Mexico
Nancy Wed, Lincoln Co
9 Kids

120 Hattie Pratt Cuba
Hiram allen NY allegany Co.
no family

APPENDIX V

ANNOTATIONS TO APPENDIX IV

ANNOTATIONS TO A RECORD OF SOME OF THE DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM AND MARY BARTON PRATT

THIS REMARKABLE MANUSCRIPT is a record of six generations of a single family. Who started the compilation is unknown. The only clue to any sure identity that it contains is the note on the last page "Sarah Baker helped me, etc." which Lillian Pratt De Back, daughter of Arthur Shumway Pratt, has identified as in her father's handwriting. It is dated July 3, 1890. Sarah Baker was Arthur Pratt's second cousin, once removed. She was fifty-one years old at the time. He was twenty-nine.

The record, as here supplemented, lists all of the thirteen children of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt, and many of the succeeding generations. It tells whom each of the ten of Abraham and Mary's sons and daughters who grew to maturity married. A total of seventy-three of their grandchildren are enumerated. Thus, even the third generation is surprisingly complete.

The fourth generation, with its proliferations, is less so. However, one hundred nine great grandchildren are noted, not all of them by name. For the fifth generation, only eight-four great, great grandchildren appear, several without being named, and many undoubtedly have been omitted. With the sixth generation, only thirteen great, great, great grandchildren, who must have been born prior to 1890, appear. In the normal course of events surely there are many more, some of whom are still living. I am one of these.

All together then this single list provides a record of two hundred seventy-nine of the descendants of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt. Abraham and his predecessors are discussed in earlier parts of this book, as well as my own line of his descendants. These notes are principally devoted to the collateral lines and contain such information as I have been able to develop. An attempt has been made to avoid repetitions, except for the available vital dates by means of which one can separate the generations.

1 Abraham Pratt, our great, great, great grandfather, was born in Oxford, Massachusetts on February 26, 1740. He married Mary Barton of Charlton (Int) December 6, 1760. He died in Cambridge, New York about 1801.

2 Mary Barton was born in 1742, as computed from her tombstone in Sherman Cemetery. She died in Marion, New York on October 6, 1828 at the age of eighty-six.

3 Deborah Pratt was born in Oxford, Massachusetts on December 22, 1760/1. She married Elihu Ward, but the names of their large family of children are unknown.

4 Ruth Pratt was born in Oxford, Massachusetts on December 19, 1762 and died there on October 25, 1768.

5 Abraham Pratt was born in Oxford, Massachusetts on September 24, 1764 and died there on November 7, 1768.

6 Mary Pratt was born in Oxford, Massachusetts on July 22, 1766 and died there in 1768.

7 Micah Pratt was born in Oxford, Massachusetts on October 17, 1768. He married (1) Ruth Thornton about 1790, and (2) Zephath about 1807, probably both in Cambridge, New York, where he probably died.

8 Mary Pratt was born between 1768 and 1771 in Oxford or Cambridge or between the two places.

9 Abraham 3d, later called Abraham 2nd in the family, was born on October 5, 1771 in Cambridge, New York and died on February 6, 1812 in Marion, New York according to family records. His tombstone in Sherman Cemetery shows his death as 1813, some fifteen years before the death of his mother who is buried nearby. Abraham 2nd was the pioneer of the many Pratts who came to Marion.

10 Hiram Pratt was born about 1775, since a son of Abraham is listed as under sixteen years of age in the 1790 Census. A mortgage he took from his mother and two youngest brothers to the family property in Cambridge establishes the approximate time of his father's death.

11 Jacob Pratt was probably born between 1776 and 1781 and seems to have lived his life in Cambridge or thereabouts.

12 Ruth Pratt 2d was probably born between 1777 and 1782 in Cambridge. She raised a family of ten children with her husband, Prince Allen, who may have lived on the farm adjoining that of her father in Cambridge before they were married and came to Marion.

13 Darius Pratt was probably born between 1778 and 1783. He was one of the first settlers of Marion and had a family of twelve children.

14 Huldah Pratt was probably born between 1779 and 1784. She raised a family of seven children in Marion with her husband, Josiah Wright.

15 John Pratt, our great, great grandfather, was born May 9, 1785 in Cambridge, New York and died on June 30, 1871. He is buried in Sherman Cemetery along with his second wife, her parents, his mother and several close relatives whose tombstones are still identifiable.

3 Deborah Pratt was the oldest of the thirteen children of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt.

16 Elihu Ward married Deborah Pratt and became the father of a "large family" of Abraham's grandchildren. Since their names are not recorded here, it may be that the list was started after many Pratt families had moved to Marion, though it does include many names of those "back home" who did not emigrate.

7 Micah Pratt was the oldest son of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt who survived the 1768 epidemic in Oxford. Though there is no indicaton that he ever came to Wayne County, it is certain that five of his sons established families near Lake Ontario. Thus Micah was the progenitor of several lines of descent once current in Williamson, Sodus, Marion and Newark. Some are still represented hereabouts (none so far as I know by the name of Pratt), while others betook themselves to such adventurous places as Weed, New Mexico; Lincoln, Nebraska; Munson, Ohio and Cuba, New York.

17 Ruth Thornton was the first wife of Micah Pratt. She was born November 19, 1768 and became the mother of three grandchildren of Abraham. She died some few years after her third son, Ezra was born.

18 Amos Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was born in Cambridge in 1791. He came to Marion in 1835, but probably lived in Newark or vicinity before that.

19 Ira Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was born in Cambridge in 1793. He came to Marion in 1834, but lived with his brother Ezra's family in Newark several years earlier.

20 Ezra Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was born in Cambridge on August 25, 1797. He came to Sodus in 1813. He married on October 3, 1820, Ann Reeves, daughter of Paul Reeves of Williamson. Subsequently he and his brother, Ira (above) took up a homestead two miles north of Newark village. Ezra died on May 29, 1882.

21 Zephath Pratt was the second wife of Micah Pratt. She became the mother of eight of Abraham's grandchildren.

22 Solomon Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was born in Cambridge September 22, 1808. When he came to Williamson is unknown. He lived in the northeast corner of East Williamson. He died August 24, 1893.

23 Albert Pratt, grandson of Abraham, lived on Pratt Road in Sodus.

24 Harrison Pratt, grandson of Abraham. We have no further record.

25 Leroy Pratt, grandson of Abraham. Married Amy Willet.

26 Wealthy Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham, married (1) Amos Sanford, (2) ( ) Worden.

27 Ruth Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham.

28 Dorcas Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham.

29 Huldah Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham.

8 Mary Pratt 2nd was the sixth child of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt. She married Samuel Carlisle. There is no further record of her family, if any.

30 Samuel Carlisle was probably a local (Cambridge) boy and there is no reason to suppose that he joined the Pratt families in Western New York.

9 Abraham Pratt 3d (2nd) founded one of the most prolific and strongest of the Pratt lines in Marion. He came from Cambridge, we believe, in 1795, built a log cabin on Route 21 and returned for his family in the fall of that year. Three families—and perhaps more—of his descendants still live in Williamson.

31 Hannah McCumber was born on November 21, 1772, probably on a farm in eastern New York adjoining that of Abraham Pratt. She became the mother of nine of Abraham's grandchildren. After her husband's death in 1812 she was head of his household for nearly thirty years. She died on November 11, 1841.

32 Lydia Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham, was born in Cambridge on June 18, 1795 when her father was probably building his log cabin in Marion. She was the infant in the Four Families legend (mentioned earlier in the book) who was brought to Marion in the winter of 1796. She died as Lydia Brockway on June 12, 1856.

33 James Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was the first Pratt child born in Marion. His birth date was December 31, 1796. He died January 15, 1816, shortly after reaching his nineteenth birthday. His tombstone is still decipherable in Sherman Cemetery.

34 Mary Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham, was born March 22, 1799 and died September 7, 1852, the wife of George Tucker.

35 Barton Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was obviously named for his grandmother's family. He was born January 13, 1801 and died February 6, 1821, a few days into his twentieth year. His tombstone, with the dates, is near that of his brother, James.

36 Wesson Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was born December 13, 1802 and died June 30, 1894, "the oldest man in Williamson."

37 Alanson Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was born February 7, 1805 and died June 10, 1830.

38 Emily Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham, was born February 22, 1807 and died November 7, 1884. She married Thomas J. Peer.

39 Olive Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham, was born January 11, 1809 and died September 8, 1858.

40 Abraham Washington Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was born September 17, 1811 and died November 11, 1841.

10 Hiram Pratt, eighth child of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt, married Rachel Allen. He succeeded to the ownership of the family property in Cambridge on August 9, 1802 by virtue of a mortgage given him by his father's heirs, Mary Barton Pratt and Darius and John Pratt.

41 Rachel Allen became the mother of at least eight great grandchildren of Abraham. Three, not on this list, are Lyman, Phoebe, and Annis (Anese) Maria.

42 Elisher Pratt, grandson of Abraham, is further unidentified.

43 Senica Pratt (also spelled Seneca), grandson of Abraham.

44 Hiram Pratt, grandson of Abraham.

45 Ruth Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham, married Andrew Van Buskirk of Cambridge and is cited in a land transaction in Washington County, New York.

46 Harriet Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham.

Lyman Pratt, grandson of Abraham is cited in land transaction in Washington County.

Phoebe Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham, married Moses Flanders. She is cited in land transaction in Washington County.

Annis (Anese) Maria Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham, is cited in the same land transaction in Washington County.

11 Jacob Pratt, ninth child of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt, married Mary Baldin (Baldwin).

47 Mary Baldin (Baldwin) became the mother of four grandchildren of Abraham.

48 Walden Pratt, grandson of Abraham.

49 Sydey (Sydney) Pratt, grandson of Abraham.

50 Hiram Pratt, grandson of Abraham.

51 Serzepla Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham.

12 Ruth Pratt 2d was the tenth child of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt.

52 Prince Allen became the father of ten grandchildren of Abraham. It is most likely that this family came to Marion in the early eighteen hundreds.

53 Asha Allen, grandson of Abraham.

54 Abraham Allen, grandson of Abraham.

55 Hiram Allen, grandson of Abraham.

56 Lyman Allen, grandson of Abraham.

57 Senica Allen, grandson of Abraham.

58 Harriet Allen, granddaughter of Abraham.

59 Lydia Allen, granddaughter of Abraham, was born about 1820. She married Preston Peer, her first cousin once removed.

60 Mary Allen, granddaughter of Abraham.

61 Julia Allen, granddaughter of Abraham.

62 Esther Allen, granddaughter of Abraham was born about 1811. She married Sydney Pratt, her first cousin.

13 Darius Pratt, eleventh child of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt. He came to Marion probably soon after his father's death but certainly prior to 1812. We have found his family enumerated only in the 1820 and 1830 Censuses. Six land transactions are recorded between 1816 and 1834. He had twelve children and was the head of "the other side of the house" in our legend, although I have not been able to identify his twins.

63 Phoebe Baker became the mother of twelve grandchildren of Abraham.

64 Asel Pratt, grandson of Abraham. No further record.

65 Zina Pratt, grandson of Abraham. Married Harriet Peer. No issue.

66 James Pratt, grandson of Abraham. Married Olive Pratt, his first cousin.

67 Preston Pratt, grandson of Abraham. No further record.

68 Sydney Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was born about 1809. He married his first cousin, Esther Allen.

69 Lurinda Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham, married David Peer about 1825.

70 Lizabeth Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham, married a man named Walden.

71 Harriet Lovina Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham, married Isaac Anthony.

72 Darius Pratt, grandson of Abraham.

73 Phoebe Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham.

74 Mary Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham.

75 Abraham Pratt, grandson of Abraham.

14 Huldah Pratt, twelfth child and youngest daughter of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt. It is probable that she came to Marion in the early eighteen hundreds.

76 Josiah Wright became the father of seven grandchildren of Abraham.

77 Ruth Wright, granddaughter of Abraham, married John L. Mason.

78 Enos Wright, grandson of Abraham, married a girl named Lovejoy.

79 George Wright, grandson of Abraham. No further record.

80 Stephen Wright, grandson of Abraham, married a girl named Hicky.

81 Prudeann Wright, granddaughter of Abraham.

82 Abraham Wright, grandson of Abraham.

83 Mary Wright, granddaughter of Abraham.

15 John Pratt was the thirteenth and last child of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt. He came to Marion in the very early eighteen hundreds and became the head of "our side of the house." He may have married the Liscon girl (spelled Liscian on the last page of this list) in Cambridge.

84 ( ) Liscon became the mother of two of Abraham's grandchildren. She was married to John Pratt about 1804–1805 and died about 1808.

85 Mahala Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham was John Pratt's first child, probably born 1805–1807. She married John Dunlap and had a family of four children.

86 Horace Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was probably born about 1806–1808. Like his sister, Mahala, he also had a family but we have no further records of them.

15 John Pratt, youngest child of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt, was left a widower with two small children in his early twenties. His second wife was Mary Pennel (Penwell), the teen-age daughter of his neighbors, Joseph and Rachel Penwell, early emigrants from New Jersey.

87 Mary Pennel (Penwell), second wife of John Pratt, was our great, great grandmother and became the mother of ten grandchildren of Abraham. For more information about her, her parents and her children, see Old John Pratt.

88 Joseph Pratt (Joseph P.), grandson of Abraham, was born December 21, 1809. He moved to Michigan, probably in the early eighteen fifties, and was living in Williamston, Michigan in 1874. We have no record of his sojourn, nor of his death.

89 Katyann Pratt (Catyann), granddaughter of Abraham, was born May 24, 1811. We have no further record of her.

90 John B. (Barton) Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was our great grandfather, born June 23, 1820. He married Nancy M. Hall of Scott, Cortland County, New York on January 14, 1846. He died sometime in November, 1906. He is the subject of a separate chapter of this book.

91 Mary Pratt (Mary A.) granddaughter of Abraham, was the twin of John Barton, born June 23, 1820. She married Benjamin Wheater and had four children. In 1874 she was living in Williamson as Mary Weaver.

92 Henry Pratt (Henry A.), grandson of Abraham, was born August 14, 1827. He married, February 11, 1855, Mrs. Ann Elizabeth Cornish and died June 3, 1899.

93 Maria Pratt (Rachel Maria), granddaughter of Abraham, was born November 10, 1815. She married Abel Brightman and died apparently before 1874, since only her sons are mentioned in her father's estate.

94 William Pratt (William S.), grandson of Abraham, was born October 5, 1825. He married Sarah Howell and was living in Marion in 1874 on the east side of what is now Arbor Road, just north of the old Isaac Hoff farm where I was born in 1905.

95 Sarah Pratt (Sarah Emily), granddaughter of Abraham, was born November 25, 1822. She was living as Sarah Colliston in Gun Plain, Michigan (no longer on the map) in 1874.

96 Thankful Pratt (Thankful Amy), granddaughter of Abraham, was born December 19, 1829. She married Hiram L. Cronk and some years after his death moved to Douglass, Kansas with her children where she was living at the age of one hundred years in 1929. The exact date of her death is unknown.

NB Hiram F. Pratt, grandson of Abraham, who does not appear on this list, was born August 22, 1813. We have no further record of him.

18 Amos Pratt, grandson of Abraham in Micah's line, married Corina Phelps.

97 Corina Phelps, born about 1800, became the mother of four great grandchildren of Abraham.

98 Mary Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham, was born about 1834.

99 Juliet Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham, was born about 1838.

100 Esmond Pratt, great grandson of Abraham, was born about 1833.

101 Phoebe Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham, was born about 1840.

19 Ira Pratt, grandson of Abraham in Micah's line, married (1) Rachel Twist, (2) Jemima A.

102 Rachel Twist may have been the mother of all of Ira's children, or she may have died before some of the younger of the eight grandchildren of Abraham were born. Ira's second wife, Jemima, was born about 1804 and was therefore some ten years younger than he.

103 Isaac Pratt, great grandson of Abraham, married (1) Lydia Dean, (2) Ann Wake.

104 Louisa Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham, married William Egleston.

105 Lorenzo Pratt (Lorenzo D.), great grandson of Abraham, was born about 1823. He married Mary Chapel.

106 Angelina Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham, married James Wake.

107 Hiram Pratt, great grandson of Abraham. No further record.

108 Harriet Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham, married Wilbur Durfee.

109 Myron Pratt, great grandson of Abraham, was born about 1837 and married (1) ( ) Holmes, (2) ( ) Skinner.

110 Morrison Pratt, great grandson of Abraham, was born about 1838 and married Elizabeth Soverhill.

20 Ezra Pratt, grandson of Abraham in Micah's line, married Ann Reeves.
111 Anne Reeves (Ann) was born November 29, 1798, married October 3, 1820 Ezra Pratt, became the mother of five great grandchildren of Abraham and died March 5, 1871.
112 Anson Pratt (James Anson), great grandson of Abraham, was born September 16, 1822 and died October 7, 1900. He lived in a square house on South Avenue in Williamson.
113 Ira Pratt, great grandson of Abraham, was born February 24, 1824 and died in May, 1882.
114 Sarah Pratt (Sarah Jane), great granddaughter of Abraham, was born August 17, 1827 and died January 2, 1916.
115 Amanda Pratt (Amanda Maria), great granddaughter of Abraham, was born February 1, 1831 and died August 14, 1861.
116 Charles Pratt (Charles Andrew), great grandson of Abraham, was born May 18, 1833 and died November 3, 1870.
22 Solomon Pratt, grandson of Abraham in Micah's line (by second wife Zephath) had a large family of children but they all seem to have moved away. At least we have found no further record of them.
117 Lucy Covell was the mother of five great grandchildren of Abraham.
118 James Pratt, great grandson of Abraham, was born about 1846 and married Nancy ( ). They had nine great, great grandchildren of Abraham and apparently lived in Weed, New Mexico in 1890.
119 Sarah Pratt (Sarah Jane), great granddaughter of Abraham, was born about 1839. She married Frank Baker who became the father of three great, great grandchildren of Abraham. This is the Sarah Baker who helped Arthur S. Pratt work on the list in 1890. They appear to have been living at 2429 S Street, Lincoln, Nebraska in 1890.
120 Hattie Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham, was born about 1842. She married Hiram Allen and was apparently living, without issue, in Cuba, New York in 1890.
121 Orvilla Pratt (Arvilla?) great granddaughter of Abraham, was born about 1845. She married Henry Warner who became the father of three great, great grandchildren of Abraham. They appear to have been living in Munson, Ohio in 1890.
122 Louisa Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham. She was born about 1841 and died at the age of fourteen, or about 1855.
22 Solomon Pratt's place in the family lineup was long a mystery until this lineage appeared. He seems to have left no descendants in the vicinity more recent than my own grandfather's generation.
123 Eliza Dunning was born March 18, 1820. She was the second wife of Solomon Pratt and mother of two great, great grandchildren of Abraham. She died January 16, 1905.
124 Charles Pratt, great grandson of Abraham. No further record.
125 Frank Pratt, great grandson of Abraham.
23 Albert Pratt, grandson of Abraham in Micah's line. He lived for a time on Pratt Road in Sodus but I have no further record than that contained here.
126 Emily Leroy became the mother of six great grandchildren of Abraham. Names not listed here are Emory, Marion, Edwin and Amelia.
127 Henry George Pratt, great grandson of Abraham. No further record.
128 George Henry Pratt, great grandson of Abraham, evidently the twin of Henry George.
25 Leroy Pratt, grandson of Abraham in Micah's line. I don't think he ever came to Wayne County.
129 Amy Willet, wife of Abraham's grandson, Leroy Pratt, may have had children of which I have no record.
26 Wealthy Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham in Micah's line, married Amos Sanford.
130 ( ) Sanford (Amos) first husband of Wealthy Pratt.
26 Wealthy Sanford. See above.
131 ( ) Worden, second husband of Wealthy Pratt.
32 Lydia Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham in Abraham 2nd's line, is more fully identified above.
132 Edmund Brockway married Lydia Pratt and became the father of eleven great grandchildren of Abraham.
133 Hiram Brockway, great grandson of Abraham. We have no further record of any of these Brockway children.
134 Lydia Brockway, great granddaughter of Abraham.
135 George Brockway, great grandson of Abraham.
136 Mary Ann Brockway, great granddaughter of Abraham.
137 Harvey Brockway, great grandson of Abraham.
138 Cone Brockway, great grandson of Abraham.
139 Hannah Brockway, great granddaughter of Abraham.
140 Rachel Brockway, great granddaughter of Abraham.
141 Harriet Brockway, great granddaughter of Abraham.
142 Sarah Brockway, great granddaughter of Abraham.
143 Mary Brockway, great granddaughter of Abraham.
34 Mary Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham in Abraham 2nd's line, died in her fifty-fourth year in 1852.
144 George Tucker married Mary Pratt and became the father of seven great grandchildren of Abraham. He died February 21, 1870.
145 Lavinia Tucker, great granddaughter of Abraham. Like the Brockway children, we have no further record of these Tuckers.
146 Lydia Tucker, great granddaughter of Abraham.
147 Elizabeth Tucker, great granddaughter of Abraham.

148 James Tucker, great grandson of Abraham.
149 Samantha Tucker, great granddaughter of Abraham.
150 William Tucker, great grandson of Abraham.
151 George Tucker, great grandson of Abraham.
36 Wesson Pratt, grandson of Abraham in Abraham 2nd's line, was twice married.
152 Polly Crowfoot, first wife of Wesson Pratt, was born March 9, 1802 and died August 12, 1831 without issue.
36 Wesson Pratt established the Pratt Homestead on Eddy Ridge Road in Williamson in 1825. A legend relates how he and his brothers and cousins walked through the woods from their homes in Marion, about four miles distant, to cut the trees and clear the land that became one of the most prominent farms for miles around.
153 Catherine Mason, second wife of Wesson Pratt, was born March 18, 1813 and died April 8, 1885. She became the mother of four great grandchildren of Abraham.
154 Abraham W. Pratt, great grandson of Abraham, died in infancy.
155 Alanson Pratt (Alanson W.), great grandson of Abraham was born March 16, 1834 and died April 2, 1904.
156 Mary Jane Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham was born July 10, 1836 and died November 11, 1883.
157 Sarah Emily Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham died in infancy.
37 Alanson Pratt, grandson of Abraham in Abraham 2nd's line, died shortly after attaining the age of twenty-five.
158 Samantha Harden married Alanson Pratt but apparently produced no children before he died. We have no further record of her.
38 Emily Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham, in Abraham 2nd's line, married into the Peer family.
159 Thomas J. Peer became the father of two great grandchildren of Abraham.
160 Hannah Peer, great granddaughter of Abraham, married Zebina Crane.
161 Barton P. Peer, great grandson of Abraham, married Lourann Merrill.
39 Olive Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham in Abraham 2nd's line married James Pratt, her first cousin.
66 James Pratt, grandson of Abraham in Darius's line, married his Uncle Abraham 2nd's daughter, Olive Pratt. They became the parents of four great grandchildren of Abraham.
162 Sydney Pratt, great grandson of Abraham. We have no further record of any of these children.
163 Emily Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham.
164 Myron Pratt, great grandson of Abraham.
165 Hannah Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham.
40 Abraham W. Pratt, grandson of Abraham in Abraham 2nd's line, married Cynthiann Keen.
166 Cynthiann Keen became the mother of three great grandchildren of Abraham.
167 Alanson Pratt, great grandson of Abraham.
168 Emily Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham.
169 Abraham Pratt, great grandson of Abraham.
62 Esther Allen, granddaughter of Abraham in Ruth 2nd's line, was born about 1811 and married her first cousin, Sydney Pratt.
68 Sydney Pratt, grandson of Abraham in Darius's line, was born about 1809, married his aunt Ruth's daughter and became the father of two great grandchildren of Abraham.
170 Juliet Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham, was born about 1836 and married William See.
171 Frankie Pratt (Frances), great granddaughter of Abraham, was born about 1838 and married Alden Williams.
65 Zina Pratt, grandson of Abraham in Darius's line, married Harriet Peer, further unidentified.
172 Harriet Peer apparently died without issue for her husband remarried prior to 1828.
66 Duplication. See Above.
39 Duplication. See Above.
162 Duplication. See Above.
163 Duplication. See Above.
164 Duplication. See Above.
165 Duplication. See Above.
68 Duplication. See Above.
62 Duplication. See Above.
170 Duplication. See Above.
171 Duplication. See Above.
69 Lurinda Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham in Darius's line, married David Peer.
173 David Peer was born about 1802. He married (1) Lurinda Pratt and (2) Elizabeth ( ), born about 1812.
174 Preston Peer, probably a grandson of Abraham, was born about 1826. He married Lydia Allen.
175 Diantha Peer, probably a granddaughter of Abraham, was born about 1829. She married Amos Skillinger.
70 Lizabeth Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham in Darius's line, married a man named Walden.
176 ( ) Walden, husband of Lizabeth Pratt, produced no great grandchildren of Abraham of which we have any record.
71 Harriet Lovina Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham in Darius's line, married Isaac Anthony.

177 Isaac Anthony became the father of two great grandchildren of Abraham whose names we do not have.

85 Mahala Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham in John's line, was the first of two children by his first wife ( ) Liscon.

178 John Dunlap as the husband of Mahala Pratt became the father of four great grandchildren of Abraham.

179 Josiah Dunlap, great grandson of Abraham.

180 Lovina Dunlap, great granddaughter of Abraham.

181 Louisann Dunlap, great granddaughter of Abraham.

182 Mary Dunlap, great granddaughter of Abraham. Perhaps the Mary M. Cornish mentioned in her grandfather's estate.

86 Horace Pratt, grandson of Abraham in John's line, was the second of the two children by his first wife. Neither of them appear in our family Bible records. They do, however, satisfy the legend of twelve children in each side of the house.

183 Nancy Porter, wife of Horace Pratt, was the mother of three great grandchildren of Abraham.

184 Sarah Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham. Perhaps the Sarah Fillmore mentioned in her grandfather's estate.

185 John Pratt, great grandson of Abraham.

186 Harriet Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham.

88 Joseph Pratt, grandson of Abraham, was the oldest child of John and Mary Penwell Pratt.

187 Sarah Howell was the first wife of Joseph Pratt and died without issue.

88 Joseph Pratt, above, soon remarried.

188 Sarah Cruthers was the second wife of Joseph Pratt. There are no further records of any of the three women he married.

189 Hiram Pratt, great grandson of Abraham, was the only child of Joseph and Sarah Cruthers Pratt.

88 Joseph Pratt, above, established his family in Michigan sometime about mid-nineteenth century. We have no further records of any of its members save the one that he was next of kin when his father died.

190 Mrs. Courtwright was the third wife of Joseph Pratt. It seems probable that she was a local (Wayne County) girl and that most, if not all, of her children were born before the family's removal to Michigan. At any rate she became the mother of four great grandchildren of Abraham.

191 David Pratt, great grandson of Abraham.

192 Senica Pratt (Seneca), great grandson of Abraham.

193 Rachel Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham.

194 John D. Pratt, great grandson of Abraham.

90 John B. Pratt (Barton), grandson of Abraham in John's line, was quite an operator for his times. He was a cooper by trade and at various periods in his life owned several places in Williamson and Walworth. He bought entire sections (640 acres) of land both in Michigan and Kansas, but he returned from both places and lived out his life in Williamson.

195 Nancy Hall (Nancy M.), our great grandmother was born in Scott, New York, October 9, 1823. She married John B. Pratt on January 24, 1846. When she died, November 29, 1912 in her ninetieth year, she was the oldest person in our family that I ever knew, although her sister-in-law, Thankful Amy Cronk, lived to be more than one hundred years old.

196 Alfred Pratt (Alfred E.), great grandson of Abraham, was born November 19, 1846. He later moved to Kansas and died "On the Strip in his bunk" in 1901.

197 Charles Pratt (Charles White), great grandson of Abraham, was our grandfather. He was born August 14, 1850, married (1) February 1, 1877 Ida Emrill Cook, (2) November 15, 1911 Mary B. Birdsall. He died November 14, 1924. He is the subject of a chapter of this book.

NB Two great granddaughters of Abraham were born and died in infancy in Michigan.
Sarah Imogene Pratt, September 8, 1858–April 4, 1861.
Addie Lilly Pratt, November 1, 1862–August 10, 1863.

91 Mary Pratt (Mary A.), granddaughter of Abraham in John's line was born on the same day as her brother, John B. and thus accounts for the pair of twins in the legend of our side of the house. So far I have been unable to confirm the twins in the other side of the house.

198 Benjamin Wheater, by marrying Mary A. Pratt, became the father of four great grandchildren of Abraham.

199 Wealthy Wheater, great granddaughter of Abraham.

200 John Wheater, great grandson of Abraham.

201 William Wheater, great grandson of Abraham. Married Dell Brock.

202 Hiram Wheater, great grandson of Abraham.

91 Mary Pratt, above, remarried after the death of her first husband.

203 ( ) Weaver, second husband of Mary Pratt.

92 Henry Pratt (Henry A.), grandson of Abraham in John's line was born on August 14, 1827 and died on June 3, 1899. For anecdotes see the chapter titled Charles White Pratt.

204 Mrs. Eliza Cornish (Ann Elizabeth), became the mother of one great grandchild of Abraham. She was born on October 18, 1817, married on February 4, 1855 Henry A. Pratt and died June 25, 1915.

205 Charles Pratt (Charles L.), great grandson of Abraham was born March 2, 1858. We have no further record.

93 Maria Pratt (Rachel Maria), granddaughter of Abraham in John's line was born November 10, 1815. She married Abel Brightman but where she lived or when she died we do not know.

206 Abel Brightman became the father of three great grandchildren of Abraham.

207 Ezra Brightman (Alonzo in family records), great grandson of Abraham, was living in Rochester, New York in 1874.

208 David Brightman, great grandson of Abraham was living in Poughkeepsie, New York in 1874. He was a Civil War soldier.

209 Philo Brightman (Milo in family records), great grandson of Abraham. We have no further record of Milo.

94 William Pratt (William S.), grandson of Abraham in John's line, was mentioned in the family as Uncle Bill, although he was actually my grandfather's uncle. For anecdote see Charles White Pratt.

210 Sarah Howell became the mother of four great grandchildren of Abraham.

211 Frank Pratt, great grandson of Abraham apparently married but we have no further record.

212 Edward Pratt, great grandson of Abraham apparently married also, but we have found no further record.

213 Daniel Pratt, great grandson of Abraham married and had at least one great, great grandchild of Abraham.

214 Harriet Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham married twice with no record of issue.

95 Sarah Pratt (Sarah Emily), granddaughter of Abraham in John's line, was one of three of his grandchildren to move to Michigan. Whether she had any children is unknown.

215 Jim Coliston (Colliston - Collison) may have been the son of William Collison of England, born 1794, who was recorded in the 1850 Census as living with his wife and three children in Marion. If Jim was this Colliston, he was eighteen in 1850, which would have made him ten years younger than his wife, Sarah Pratt.

96 Thankful Pratt (Thankful Amy), granddaughter of Abraham in John's line, was Aunt Thank both to Dad and his father. More information on her appears in Osbert Alfred Pratt.

216 Hiram Cronk (Hiram L.) was the father of four great grandchildren of Abraham.

217 Mary Cronk, great granddaughter of Abraham, married Frank Notingham.

218 Allison Cronk (J. Allison), great grandson of Abraham married Emma Petty and had at least one great, great grandchild of Abraham.

219 Alice Cronk, great granddaughter of Abraham. No further record.

220 Addie Cronk, great granddaughter of Abraham married George Cooper and had at least one great, great grandchild of Abraham.

77 Ruth Wright, granddaughter of Abraham in Huldah's line married John L. Mason.

221 John L. Mason became the father of nine great grandchildren of Abraham.

222 Maria Mason, great granddaughter of Abraham married (1) Samuel Dean, (2) Robert Warren.

223 Jerusia Mason, great granddaughter of Abraham, married Ira Clark and produced two great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

224 Harriet Mason, great granddaughter of Abraham married (1) Ezekiel Clark, (2) William Howell. I have no record of issue.

225 Prudeann Mason, great granddaughter of Abraham, married Theodore Finley and had four great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

226 Caroline Mason, great granddaughter of Abraham married Jeremiah Clark and had three great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

227 Martha Mason, great granddaughter of Abraham married Theodore Finley, widower of her sister, Prudeann, and had two great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

228 James Mason, great grandson of Abraham married a Stevens girl and had three great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

229 Nelson Mason, great grandson of Abraham married (1) ( ) Hart, (2) Melissa Nash with no issue recorded here.

230 Melvin Mason, great grandson of Abraham apparently married but we have no further record.

78 Enos Wright, grandson of Abraham in Huldah's line married a Lovejoy.

231 ( ) Lovejoy. No further record.

80 Steven Wright, grandson of Abraham in Huldah's line married a Hickey.

232 ( ) Hickey. No further record.

58 Harriet Allen, granddaughter of Abraham in Ruth 2nd's line married Joseph Van Deveer.

233 Joseph Van Deveer became the father of one great grandchild of Abraham.

234 Henry Van Deveer, great grandson of Abraham.

98 Mary Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham in the Micah-Amos line married Seymour Strong.

235 Seymour Strong, husband of Abraham's great granddaughter, Mary. There is no further record of this family.

99 Juliet Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham in the Micah-Amos line married Fred Russel.

236 Fred Russel became the father of two great, great grandchildren of Abraham. As a widower he married his wife's sister, Phoebe.

237 Carlo Russel, great, great grandson of Abraham.

238 Ethel Russel, great, great grandson of Abraham.

100 Esmond Pratt, great grandson of Abraham in the Micah-Amos line married Mary Jane Howell.

239 Mary Jane Howell became the mother of two great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

101 Phoebe Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham in the Micah-Amos line married her sister Juliet's widower, with no further record of issue.

103 Isaac Pratt, great grandson of Abraham in the Micah-Ira line married twice and produced eight great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

242 Lydia Dean became the mother of two of Abraham's great, great grandchildren. She is buried in Sherman Cemetery.

243 Jerome Pratt, great, great grandson of Abraham.

244 Ira Pratt, great, great grandson of Abraham.

245 Ann Wake became the mother of six of Abraham's great, great grandchildren.

104 Louisa Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham in the Micah-Ira line, married William Egleston and became the mother of three great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

105 Lorenzo Pratt, great grandson of Abraham in the Micah-Ira line was born about 1823. He was the father of four great, great grandchildren of Abraham, for none of whom we have any further record except that Clark was born about 1845 and Harriet about 1849.

256 Mary Chapel, mother of four great, great grandchildren of Abraham, was born about 1829.

106 Angelina Pratt, great granddaughter in the Micah-Ira line married James Wake and had two great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

262 Linark D. Wake, great, great grandson of Abraham married Louisa Green.

263 Essie Wake, great, great granddaughter of Abraham.

108 Harriet Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham in the Micah-Ira line married Wilbur Durfee and became the mother of two great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

265 Grace Durfee, great, great granddaughter of Abraham married a man named Downing.

266 Clarence Durfee, great, great grandson of Abraham.

109 Myron Pratt, great grandson of Abraham in the Micah-Ira line married twice. There is no record of children by his first wife, *nee* Holmes but he had one great, great grandson of Abraham by his second wife. ( ) Skinner

269 Eugene Pratt, great, great grandson of Abraham.

110 Morrison Pratt, great grandson of Abraham in the Micah-Ira line married Elizabeth Soverhill.

270 Elizabeth Soverhill became the mother of five great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

271 Byron Pratt, great, great grandson of Abraham married Anna Whaling.

272 Gertie Pratt, great, great granddaughter of Abraham.

273 Anna Pratt, great, great granddaughter of Abraham.

274 Ella Pratt, great, great granddaughter of Abraham.

275 Leland Pratt, great, great grandson of Abraham.

112 J. Anson Pratt, great grandson of Abraham in the Micah-Ezra line married Margaret Ann Soverhill, perhaps the sister of his cousin Morrison's wife.

276 Margaret Soverhill (Margaret Ann) was born November 8, 1830 and died April 20, 1901. She married Anson Pratt December 13, 1848 and became the mother of two great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

277 Francis Pratt (Frances Amanda), great, great granddaughter of Abraham was born October 16, 1849. She married (1) on February 15, 1871 Stephen T. Milham who died October 28, 1880 and (2) on September 4, 1887 Joseph Wood.

278 Charles Pratt (Charles Soverhill), great, great grandson of Abraham was born April 30, 1852. He married on September 22, 1875 Mary E. Henry who died June 12, 1916. He died September 1, 1917.

113 Ira Pratt, great grandson of Abraham in the Micah-Ezra line married his first wife, Margaret Hoffman, on January 24, 1849. I have no record of the date of her death. His second wife was Maria Payne, who became the mother of a great, great granddaughter of Abraham. Maria died on May 26, 1934 at the age of more than ninety-seven years.

281 Minnie Pratt, great, great granddaughter of Abraham married Dr. William Page.

114 Sarah Pratt (Sarah Jane), great granddaughter of Abraham in the Micah-Ezra line married on January 2, 1850, Harrison Darland who became the father of one of Abraham's great, great grandsons.

283 Alphonzo Darland, great, great grandson of Abraham, married in December, 1888, Anna Holmes. They had two great, great, great grandchildren of Abraham, Harry and Bert Darland.

115 Amanda Pratt (Amanda Maria), great granddaughter of Abraham in the Micah-Ezra line married James Rider.

116 Charles Pratt, great grandson of Abraham in the Micah-Ezra line married Hattie Whiting.

155 Alanson Pratt (Alanson W.), great grandson of Abraham in the Abraham 2nd-Wesson line. "Lon" Pratt lived on the homestead at the top of the hill on Eddy Ridge Road and was of the same generation as my grandfather.

286 Martha Reeves (Martha Cordelia) was the niece of Ann Reeves who married Ezra Pratt. She was born February 27, 1838, married March 11, 1860 Alanson W. Pratt and died March 30, 1918. She became the mother of four great, great grandchildren of Abraham. A photo in my father's files taken October 9, 1911 shows her on the porch of my grandfather's house at his mother's eighty-eighth birthday party.

287 Arthur S. Pratt (Shumway) great, great grandson of Abraham in the Abraham 2nd-Wesson line was born May 6, 1861, married April 24, 1895 Lucy Belle Stebbins (great, great, great granddaughter of Abraham in the Abraham 2nd-Emily Peer-Emma Crane line) and died in 1939. They were the parents of Lillian Pratt De Back, born February 26, 1901. Lillian married Stanley De Back and they have one son, Wayne Bruce De Back, born January 13, 1931.

288 Clarence R. Pratt (Raymond), great, great grandson of Abraham in the Abraham 2nd-Wesson line was born February 7, 1866. He married on February 27, 1895 Carrie May Redman who was born July 30, 1871 and died November 27, 1960. Clarence died April 6, 1950. They were the parents of three great, great, great grandchildren of Abraham:

Armilda May, born August 1, 1897, married July 1, 1921 Raymond DeZutter Fuller. The Fullers have one child, Nathalie, great, great, great, great granddaughter of Abraham, born June 22, 1925.

Martha Frances, born September 4, 1903, married July 6, 1928 Joseph T. Wood who was born November 27, 1903. The Woods have two children, great, great, great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

Roxie Ann, born March 18, 1931. Married Allen Mitchell. No issue.

Mary Lou, born October 21, 1934. She married Donald Ocque and they have two children (1967), Sandra Jean, born August 24, 1964 and Nancy Ann, born July 21, 1966 who are the great, great, great, great, great granddaughters of Abraham Pratt.

Harvey Alanson, born June 11, 1906, married July 5, 1930 Ellen Baily. No issue.

289 M. Lillian Pratt, great, great granddaughter of Abraham was born October 20, 1869, married August 12, 1897 George Kinsel and died May 2, 1900. The Kinsels had a son, Donald, born December 10, 1898 who married on August 12, 1922 Dotty Vandermark. Donald Kinsel was thus a great, great, great grandson of Abraham.

290 Millie R. Pratt, great, great granddaughter of Abraham was born August 9, 1873 and died November 22, 1897.

160 Hannah Peer, great granddaughter of Abraham in the Abraham 2nd-Emily Peer line married Zebina Crane and had four great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

292 DeWitt Crane, great, great grandson of Abraham married three times. We have only a record of his fathering a boy who would have been a great, great, great grandson of Abraham.

293 Emma Crane, great, great granddaughter of Abraham married Henry Stebbins.

294 Mary Crane, great, great granddaughter of Abraham, married Dick McCumber.

295 Alonzo Crane, great, great grandson of Abraham.

161 Barton P. Peer, great grandson of Abraham was the father of two great, great grandchildren of Abraham whose names we do not know.

170 Juliet Pratt, great granddaughter of Abraham in both the Ruth 2nd and Darius lines was born about 1836.

299 William See was born about 1832 and became the father of one great, great grandson of Abraham.

300 Frank See, great, great grandson of Abraham.

171 Francis Pratt (Frances), great granddaughter of Abraham in both the Ruth 2nd and Darius lines became the mother of one of his great, great granddaughters.

174 Preston Peer was probably the son of Lurinda Pratt, granddaughter of Abraham in Darius's line, although his father, David Peer, married twice. Preston married, according to this record, his first cousin once removed, Lydia Allen, six years his senior.

175 Diantha Peer was probably a great granddaughter of Abraham in Darius's line. She was born about 1829 and if the daughter of her father's first wife, Lurinda Pratt, she became the mother of seven Skillinger great, great grandchildren of Abraham, for none of whom we have a further record.

196 Alfred Pratt (Alfred E.), great grandson of Abraham in John's line was always referred to as Uncle Alf by my father, although I do not think they ever met. He married Ellen Phelps on August 19, 1868.

311 Nellie Phelps (Ellen A.) was a Walworth girl and became the mother of three great, great grandchildren of Abraham, all of whom were born in Kansas.

312 Charles Pratt (Charles W.), great, great grandson of Abraham in John's line was born in Douglass, Kansas on April 15, 1871. He graduated from Douglass High School in 1890, probably the first of our line to obtain a high school education. Unfortunately we have no further record of him.

313 ( ) Elmer Pratt, great, great grandson of Abraham.

314 Eva Pratt, great, great granddaughter of Abraham.

197 Charles Pratt (Charles White), great grandson of Abraham in John's line, was our grandfather. See Charles White Pratt.

315 Ida Cook (Ida Emrill) was our grandmother. See Charles White Pratt.

316 Albertia Pratt (Osbert Alfred), our father was a great, great grandson of Abraham in John's line. See Osbert Alfred Pratt.

NB Libbie Emrill Pratt was a great, great granddaughter of Abraham in John's line who died in infancy.

200 John Wheater was a great grandson of Abraham in John's line.

201 William Wheater was a great grandson of Abraham in John's line.

211 Frank Pratt was a great grandson of Abraham in John's line.

212 Edward Pratt was a great grandson of Abraham in John's line.

213 Daniel Pratt was a great grandson of Abraham in John's line.

322 Girl Pratt was a great, great granddaughter of Abraham in John's line.

214 Harriet Pratt was a great granddaughter of Abraham in John's line.

217 Mary Cronk was a great granddaughter of Abraham in John's line.

218 Allison Cronk was a great grandson of Abraham in John's line.

327 Girl Cronk was a great, great granddaughter of Abraham in John's line.

220 Addie Cronk was a great granddaughter of Abraham in John's line.

329 Girl Cooper was a great, great granddaughter of Abraham in John's line.

222 Maria Mason, great granddaughter of Abraham in Huldah's line.

223 Jerusia Mason, great granddaughter of Abraham in Huldah's line was the mother of two Clark great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

224 Harriet Mason, great granddaughter of Abraham in Huldah's line.

225 Prudeann Mason, great granddaughter of Abraham in Huldah's line was the mother of four Finley great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

226 Caroline Mason, great granddaughter of Abraham in Huldah's line was the mother of three Clark great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

227 Martha Mason, great granddaughter of Abraham in Huldah's line.

228 James Mason, great grandson of Abraham in Huldah's line.

229 Nelson Mason, great grandson of Abraham in Huldah's line.

230 Melvin Mason, great grandson of Abraham in Huldah's line.

262 Linark Wake, great, great grandson of Abraham in the Micah-Ira line became the father of a Wake great, great, great grandson of Abraham.

271 Byron Pratt, great, great grandson of Abraham in the Micah-Ira line became the father of a great, great, great granddaughter of Abraham.

278 Charles Pratt (Charles Soverhill), great, great grandson of Abraham in the Micah-Ezra line, became the father of four great, great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

366 Bertha Pratt, great, great, great granddaughter of Abraham in the Micah-Ezra line married Sydney Lookup.

293 Emma Crane, great, great granddaughter of Abraham in the Abraham 2nd-Emily Peer-Hannah Peer line became the mother of six Stebbins great, great, great grandchildren of Abraham.

376 Lucy Stebbins, great, great, great granddaughter of Abraham became the mother of Lillian Pratt De Back.

Intermarriages

The taboos of Christian civilization against certain consanguineous marriages are of relatively recent development. As late as the Nineteenth Century, Polynesian kings, in order to secure their successions, married their sisters. Brother and sister marriages in Germany were not unknown in the eighteen hundreds either, and though it was uncommon in the United States there are folklore tales which suggest that it did happen here.

Most Christian sects today sanction first cousin marriages; Judaism allows marriage between uncle and niece, aunt and nephew. And while perhaps frowned upon, marriage with a brother's widow or a sister's widower still occurs.

The biography of Godfrey L. Cabot of Boston says that "In 1774 George Cabot had married his double first cousin . . . setting a pattern frequently followed in the Cabot family . . . Mary C. Wheelright, whose mother was a Cabot, once remarked 'It sometimes happened that a Cabot girl would be a great-aunt before she was born.'"

APPENDIX VI

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF VERMONT

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF VERMONT

ACCORDING TO my great grandfather, John Barton Pratt, his people came from Vermont, although his father's birthplace was listed in the 1850 census as New York State. This seems to be a discrepancy until one explores the history of Vermont from pre-Revolutionary times until it became the 13th State of the Union. Here is a brief sketch.

In 1740 King George I described the New Hampshire boundary as ". . . the northern boundary of Massachusetts (on) a similar curve line pursuing the course of the Merrimac River at three miles distance on the north side thereof, beginning at the Atlantic Ocean and ending at a point due north of a place called Pawtucket Falls, and by a straight line drawn from thence due west till it meets with His Majesty's other governments."

These boundaries were later reaffirmed in the King's Commission to his colonial governor for New Hampshire, Benning Wentworth. Wentworth held that his jurisdiction extended as far west as the western boundary of Massachusetts, which was a line twenty miles east of the Hudson River. Governor Clinton of New York however maintained that by the Patent of Charles II to the Duke of York, New York's eastern boundary was the Connecticut River. Thus the disputed section embraced the entire lower area of what modern maps show as the State of Vermont.

In January, 1749 in defiance of New York's claims Wentworth sold a grant of the township of Bennington, which was well inside the Charles II Patent. When a violent protest was made Wentworth agreed to sell no further grants until King George had reconciled the rival claims.

General Jeffrey Amherst reduced Montreal in 1757 and Canada was surrendered by the French to the British. This opened up for settlement all of the country between Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River, the present western and eastern boundaries of Vermont.

Despite Wentworth's promise he went right on selling grants in the Vermont territory. The wrangling grew hotter and hotter until Wentworth felt it expedient, in 1764, to reassert his boundary claims. Countering this proclamation, New York obtained a Royal Order to the effect that "The Western bank of the Connecticut (River) from where it enters the Province of Massachusetts Bay as far north as the 45th latitude (shall) be the boundary between New Hampshire and New York."

With this new weapon the New York government chose to construe the order as annulling all previous grants of land made by Wentworth. It annexed the southwest part of the grants to Albany County and created a new county to the north which was named Charlotte. Then it began to make grants of its own and attempted to eject some of the settlers of grants previously purchased from New Hampshire. Naturally these settlers resisted the encroachment and the Green Mountain Boys, under Ethan Allen, set up their own frontier law enforcement.

On January 5, 1777 the insurgents issued a Declaration of Independence from both New Hampshire and New York and proclaimed a republic which they first called New Connecticut but changed the name to Vermont in June. The new republic offered union to towns both east of the

Connecticut River in New Hampshire and west of its border in New York. Several voted to unite with the Republic of Vermont. Cambridge, New York did so on May 15, 1781. Vermont did not become a State in the Union until it was admitted on March 4, 1791, almost ten years later.

Perhaps we may be excused then, if we prefer to believe that John and Darius Pratt, the two brothers who lived in the first log house between Palmyra and Pultneyville literally "came from Vermont" since both had been born in Cambridge during this period of shifting loyalties.

APPENDIX VII

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF MARION, NEW YORK
1492–1826

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF MARION, NEW YORK

1492–1826

1492 Christopher Columbus claimed the Western Hemisphere by right of discovery in the names of the King and Queen of Spain.

1570 Hiawatha created the Iroquois League. The League included the Seneca Nation, occupying the area of which Marion is a part.

1628 Charles I of England, by right of conquest, granted to The Governor and Company of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England all the lands from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans in a latitude in which lies Marion.

1664 Charles II granted his brother James, Duke of York (later King James II) all lands between the Connecticut and Delaware Rivers. Marion lies well west of this western boundary and its area was the scene of contention between the French and the British for a century, with Dutch frontiersmen chiming in on occasion.

1779 General John Sullivan wrested Western New York from the British and their Indian allies.

1789 Ontario County was erected by the State of New York. It included all territory between Seneca Lake and Lake Erie, from the shores of Lake Ontario to the Pennsylvania border.

1790 Sodus appears on maps of the Western Wilderness of this date as a subdivision of the Massachusetts Preemption Lands. It comprised most of what is now Wayne County.

1802 Williamson was set off from Sodus on February 20. Its area included what later became Marion, Walworth and Ontario.

1823 Wayne County was organized and separated from Ontario County.

1825 Marion was formed from Williamson and named Winchester.

1826 The name Marion was substituted for Winchester and has remained so since.

APPENDIX VIII

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF ONTARIO COUNTY WITH NOTES ON THE REMOTE HISTORY OF THE LAND OF THE IROQUOIS

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF ONTARIO COUNTY

THE FIRST milestone on the road to successful white settlement of what is now Wayne County was the famous march of General John Sullivan through the territory of the Iroquois Nations in Western New York. Only the year before, white rangers under the British leaders of the Mohawk Valley had joined the Indians in massacring the settlers of Wyoming, Pennsylvania and Cherry Valley, New York. General Washington, commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Armies, knew also that the Indians were supplying food to the British enemy. He told Congress that he planned "to carry the war to the heart of the Six Nations, to cut off their settlements, destroy the next year's crops and do every other mischief that time and circumstances will permit." He chose Sullivan to carry out the raid.

Sullivan mobilized at Easton, Pennsylvania in mid-June of 1779, hacked through the forests to Wyoming and moved along the Susquehanna River to Tioga Point (Athens). Here he was joined on August 22 by General James Clinton, coming down from the Mohawk River via Otsego Lake and the East Branch of the Susquehanna River. The combined forces numbered some five thousand soldiers.

The only real engagement of the campaign occurred on August 29 when the Sullivan forces met the enemy of twelve hundred fifty British under Colonel John Butler and an unnumbered host of Indians under Joseph Brant at Newtown on the Chemung River just southeast of Elmira. The British and their Indian allies were quickly routed. The balance of the campaign has since been called "simply unmilitary vandalism."

Sullivan's men burned every Indian village in their path. Most of them were substantial towns of well-built log houses. They hacked down or girdled the orchards. They cut or trampled the fields of standing crops and destroyed those already harvested and stored. They left in smoking ruins French Catherine's Town (Montour Falls), Kendaia, Kanadesaga (Geneva), Kanandaque (Canandaigua), Honeyoe, Conesus, Genesee Castle (Cuylersville), Skoiyase (Waterloo). They crushed the power of the Six Nations forever.

This however did not completely stop the sporadic raids upon frontiersmen. For a time thereafter the British at Niagara continued to pay bounties to the Indians for white scalps. The end of the Revolution, which occurred upon the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783 stopped that but it was not until 1794 when Anthony Wayne defeated the Western Indian allies at the Battle of The Fallen Timbers that Western New York became completely safe from savage forays.

In spite of the dangers involved, the pioneer fever hit many people soon after Sullivan's march. In 1784 the government obtained a peace treaty with the Six Nations and started to dismember their lands. Soon a dispute over its ownership arose between Massachusetts and New York.

The Hartford Convention in April 1786 determined that Western New York State lands might be governed by New York, but that Massachusetts had the right to sell them under authority of the charter of King Charles I, subject to the extinction of the Indian titles. This enabled two Connecti-

cut Yankees, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham, to purchase from Massachusetts a tract comprising the land between Seneca Lake and the Genesee River. In 1788 Phelps came to Geneva to negotiate and on July 4, at the Council of Buffalo Creek, he obtained title to two million six hundred thousand acres from the Indians upon his promise to pay them five thousand dollars down plus five hundred dollars annually forever. In the fall of that year General Israel Chapin built the first log storehouse at Canandaigua but did not stay the winter.

The first white settlement in all the Genesee Country, from Seneca Lake to Lake Erie, was established by Jemima Wilkinson. She was a native Rhode Islander and the leader of a religious cult. Twenty-five of her followers "squatted" at a place on Keuka Lake Outlet which they called City Hill. She herself did not come until the next year.

In 1789 Phelps and Gorham opened their land office in Canandaigua. On June 17 of that year Nathan Comstock of Massachusetts bought Township Twelve, Range Three (Macedon) from them for one thousand three hundred forty-four English Pounds. On the same day he sold thirty-one of the seventy-two lots to Stephen Warner for five hundred eighty-four Pounds, ten Shillings. Warner was from Cummington, Massachusetts and made the journey on horseback to obtain the land as farms for his son, Jonathan, and his ward, Noah Porter. Webb Harwood and his wife set out from Adams, Massachusetts early in the spring and made the journey to Macedon with an ox team and wagon in forty-six days. They brought with them young Warner, Porter and Bennett Bates, all bachelors. They erected a cabin near the first canal lock west of Palmyra, about one-half mile east of the village of Macedon. The third settler, after Comstock and Harwood, was Ebenezer Spear, a friend of the Harwoods. Spear once walked four hundred miles to Schenectady and back in fourteen days for wine for the ailing Mrs. Harwood.

Phelps and Gorham had in its employ a surveyor named Col. John Jenkins. John Swift, a native of Kent, Connecticut, who had fought in the Revolution at the age of fifteen, met Jenkins early in the spring of 1789. Swift had been one of those who had helped settle Wyoming with Connecticut people and had been driven out by the 1788 massacre. He was looking for land for a new settlement and he and Jenkins with an Indian guide explored the Phelps and Gorham land north of Canandaigua. They came to the stream that the Indians called Ganargua which in its spring flood struck them as being an ideal waterway for settlers from the east. Swift and Jenkins returned to the Canandaigua Land Office and there purchased, on July 3, 1789, Township twelve, Range two (Palmyra) from Phelps and Gorham.

Jenkins surveyed the township into farm lots. Swift bought out Jenkins's interest and went back to New England to recruit immigrants. In the spring of 1790 he brought his own family to the new lands on which he had built a cabin the previous summer. It stood north of what is now the lower end of Main Street in Palmyra at a place on the creek long known as Swift's Landing. This point was the head of navigation for the next seventeen years.

Strange as it may now seem there were, even in those pioneer days, super highways and navigable waterways right into the heart of the Phelps and Gorham holdings. The water routes were known to the provincial governments before 1734; the highways came later.

For centuries the Indians had followed the Susquehanna and Chemung up from the south. These rivers and the subsequent roads which were built along their courses later became the route used by Charles Williamson, Nathaniel Rochester and others.

Albany was easy to reach from overseas. Indeed a letter written during the immigrant period, as quoted by Cowles, said: "The most convenient route for Europeans to come to the Genesee Country will be to land in New York; they will with much ease reach Albany by water, and from thence they can either hire wagons or take navigaton by canals and the Mohawk River to Geneva. Unless the water be in good order, I should certainly prefer the land journey. A wagon, with two oxen and two horses will go twenty miles per day with a load of thirty cwt."

No river in the country has had a greater effect on the United States than the Mohawk. For generations its valley had been the pathway of the Indians and white explorers. It is the only water-level pass from the Atlantic Seaboard through the Appalachian Mountains between Maine and Georgia.

In 1791 the highway from Whitestown (near Utica) to Geneva was widened throughout its length to sixty-four feet, and the portion from Geneva to Canandaigua was improved. On September thirtieth of that year a stagecoach starting from Ft. Schuyler (Utica) arrived in Geneva on the afternoon of the third day with four passengers.

The story of a colony of Long Islanders is interesting at this point. During the winter of 1791 Joel Foster built a sailboat of two tons burden on the south shore of Long Island. In early spring it was launched into Heady Creek and floated down to Great South Bay. Here, on April 4, 1792, Foster, Elias Reeves, William Hopkins and others embarked for New York. They sailed up the Hudson to Albany. There they drew the boat from the water, mounted it on wheels, drove it to Schenectady and then put it back into the waters of the Mohawk. By sail and oar they reached Ft. Stanwix (Rome). Again it was conveyed on wheels to Wood Creek, upon whose waters it was towed to Oneida Lake. Sailing the length of the lake was a breeze compared to the portages.

The boat left Oneida Lake by way of its outlet, the Oneida River, then went on down to the point where the Oneida joins the Oswego River. From this point the way was all up-stream; up the Oswego to the Seneca, thence up the Seneca to the Clyde and up the Clyde to its junction with the Ganargua. Here the party transshipped their goods and with a smaller boat ascended the smaller stream. In some places they were forced to portage; in others to wade and pull the boat behind them. On May 2, 1792 the colony, including ten females and eleven-months-old Harvey Foster, arrived at Swift's Landing and settled on the land purchased from its owner. The trip had taken the intrepid travellers only twenty-eight days.

Early in the spring of 1789 William Stansell with his brother Nicholas and brother-in-law John Featherly, built their boats upon the banks of the Mohawk. William, who had been a Sullivan raider ten years before; Nicholas who was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1755 and who moved as a youth with his parents to the Mohawk Valley, and Featherly were, says Turner,* among the earliest pioneers of Wayne County. Before launching their boats they procured as pilot and guide a Dutch Indian trader named Hendrick Wemple. He spoke the dialects of the Iroquois and had acted as interpreter for General Sullivan. The little group of twelve (three men, their wives, five children and the pilot) embarked their small craft loaded with corn, potatoes, pigs and probably a cow. They ascended the Mohawk, sailed down Oneida Lake and thence up the rivers to The Forks (Lyons).

After that first year of pioneering in Wayne County the pace of progress quickened. Jemima

*Biblio.

Wilkinson increased her colony ten-fold in 1790 and moved it from City Hill to the present site of Dresden. The Wadsworths of Connecticut took up huge acreages west of the Genesee. Phelps and Gorham found themselves in financial trouble and were forced to turn back much of their original purchase to Massachusetts. The remainder, one million two hundred fifty thousand acres they sold in August, 1790 to William Morris for less than twelve cents per acre. Morris had signed the Declaration of Independence and financed the Revolution. He was a huge land speculator, destined later to die in debtor's prison.

As soon as Morris had title to the Phelps and Gorham acres, he quickly sold seven hundred fifty thousand of them to a British syndicate headed by Sir William Pultney and Sir John Lowther Johnstone, realizing a profit of one hundred sixty thousand dollars on the deal. Pultney and Johnstone lost no time in sending to the area aggressive colonizers, among them Charles Williamson.

Williamson exerted greater influence on the early development of Wayne County than any other man. He renamed Lyons. He gave his own name to Williamson, previously called Boyle. He extended the road from Canandaigua through East Palmyra and Marion to Sodus Point. He had much land surveyed into farm lots and did many other things to entice settlers to the Pultney Purchase.

In 1791 Joseph Winters and Benjamin Franklin became the first settlers of Arcadia. David Sherman, a Rhode Island native, came to East Palmyra the same year. Sherman appears to have been an inveterate traveller. He returned to New England the same fall on foot and reappeared in East Palmyra the next spring with two yoke of oxen. Here he and his brother, Humphrey, built a log house in 1792. In later years he walked back to New England to organize colonies of settlers. He is credited with guiding colonists to far-off places as remote as Missouri.

In 1791 Samuel Soverhill came on foot from New Jersey to Arcadia and bought one hundred forty acres of land from Charles Williamson for $589.50. Old records indicate that during that year a Captain Galloway bought a farm from John Swift. Galloway's name is perpetuated by the road which runs north from Route 31 to East Palmyra. Lemuel Spear also moved his family, including eleven children, to Palmyra in February with two yoke of oxen, some cows and a few sheep. He was a Revolutionary soldier and hailed from Massachusetts.

The towns which are now Marion and Williamson acquired their first settlers of record in 1794. Early in the spring of that year Daniel Russell erected a log cabin a mile west of Pultneyville where he was the sole settler in all the area north of Palmyra—for a short time. Others too came in the year 1794: David Sweezey by boat and Samuel Caldwell by team and covered wagon from New Jersey. Some used the new road, on foot or horseback, which Williamson built that year. Among them may well have been Joseph and Rachel Penwell and their infant daughter Mary from New Jersey. It was Mary who later became the wife of John Pratt thus making her parents our great, great, great grandparents. All three are buried in Sherman Cemetery.

The pioneer period was one of feverish road building. First was Williamson's road from Canandaigua to Sodus Point. Soon after came the road from Marion to Pultneyville, followed quickly by the Eddy Ridge and the Cory Corners roads.

David Sherman's was the first marriage, in 1795, in Marion. His bride was Elizabeth Howell who had come from New Jersey the year before with David Sweezey. The first permanent settler in Sodus was Amos Richards and his wife and daughter. Sodus was once named Troupville for Robert Troup of New York City and later of Geneva.

A letter written by Williamson in 1798 says, "A promising settlement composed of people from Jersey and Maryland is begun here (Lyons) this June; A Mr. Evert Van Wickle from the Jerseys moved in along with forty persons." It was at Van Wickle's home on April 2, 1799 that the first town meeting for the district of Sodus was held.

There is a suggestion that Williamson had a little trouble with some of the earliest colonists over land tenure. They certainly had worked hard to clear the land and build their homes between the time they arrived, starting with 1789, and 1793 when Williamson first appeared to assert his claims in behalf of the Pultney interests. Apparently things got pretty hot in 1796. The settlers were in no mood to "buy" property on which they had previously located and which they had improved with their hard labor from the agent of absentee British owners. And while it is not certain at this date how matters were adjusted, it seems probable that Williamson yielded to the wrath of the homesteaders which, according to *Grip's Historical Souvenir of Lyons*, lasted for thirty years.

The names of the first ten families, as they appeared on the tax roll for Marion in 1799 were "Abraham Pratt, Timothy Smith, Henry Lovell, Sam Caldwell from New Jersey, Reuben Adams, David Sherman, David Sweezey from New Jersey, Robert Springer, Daniel Powell and Wm. G. Cogswell—north of Upper Corners."

The first tavern in Marion was opened for business in 1800. The second town meeting was held at Sodus Point. In 1801 Stephen and Daniel Douglas came to Walworth, calling the place Douglas Corners. Another town meeting was held this year at Timothy Smith's home in Marion. There is no record of a town meeting in 1802, when Williamson was set off from Sodus, but the first meeting for the new town was held in March at Smith's in 1803. It was followed in 1804 by a second at Daniel Powell's.

Churches were organized and schools were started as soon as it was possible for the settlers to get together after they had established their hold upon the land. By 1810 a good beginning had already been made and Wayne County was well on its way to its ultimate prosperity.

REMOTE HISTORY OF THE LAND OF THE IROQUOIS

THE STORY of the white settlement of The Western Wilderness of New York State does not begin until the closing years of the Eighteenth Century, less than two hundred years ago. But the land existed and was inhabited long before that. What sort of "wilderness" was it? Who were the people upon its broad acres? What was their mode of living?

This region to which I am native had been occupied for more than four hundred years before the settlement of my ancestors by agricultural peoples, of which my family were merely the latest to cultivate its soil. These primitive predecessors, even before Columbus reached the Western Hemisphere, had devised a federal government for themselves which was in many ways like our own federal union of today. They were the five nations of the Iroquois: Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida and Mohawk. The Tuscarora became the sixth nation of the federation at the beginning of the Eighteenth Century.

While the modern history of Western New York does not begin until 1779 (Sullivan's Campaign) it has been pointed out that "we can thank the savages for tobacco, squash, corn, beans,

peanuts, maple sugar . . . as well as the spread eagle on our national symbol. The achievement of the Iroquois in the realm of government seems at this distance almost incredible. Their confederation for more than two centuries survived tribal wars, foreign influences and the advance of border civilization. The great European powers, France and England, courted its favor."

Long before the lake country of New York became "The Western Wilderness" of 1790, it had already had a long history of French exploitation. Almost a century and a half before, in July, 1656 Governor de Lauzon of New France had sent a colony of white men to settle in the vicinity of Syracuse in order to convert such of the Iroquois as they could to Catholicism. More than twenty years before Seventeen hundred (1678) La Salle built the first vessel ever to venture upon the upper lakes. He named it Griffon in honor of Count Frontenac whose coat-of-arms bore such a device. The vessel was lost on a return journey from Green Bay to Niagara with a cargo of furs.

In 1685 the Marquis de Denonville sailed from Rochelle, France on Louis XIV's orders to take over the governorship of Canada. Two years later he had so well established his position and that of his country that, on July 4, 1687 he was able to embark four hundred bateaux and canoes at Fort Frontenac (now Kingston, Ontario). The craft were paddled across the lake to the south shore, then westward past Oswego, Sodus Point and Pultneyville until on July 10th they reached Irondequoit Bay. (Irondequoit was to become the birthplace of my grandmother one hundred sixty-five years later.)

On the same day that Denonville reached Irondequoit from the east a French officer named La Durantaye arrived with his troops and their Indian allies from as far west as Lake Superior. Together, these gave Governor Denonville three thousand men with which to attack the farms and homes and villages of the Seneca Indians who lived thereabouts.

Hastily constructing a fort to protect the fleet and leaving fourteen hundred men to guard it Denonville, on July 12, marched his forces south against a Seneca army variously estimated to number from four hundred to eight hundred braves. His objectives were the Indian villages near Victor.

Denonville's army met and routed the advance guard of the Senecas the next day. On the 14th it entered the marshes immediately north and west of Victor and advanced to the top of Boughton's Hill. Here Denonville found that the Indians had burned their main village in anticipation of his onslaught.

Denonville and his sixteen hundred men spent the next ten days killing the Indian's pigs, burning their stores and hacking down the new corn standing in the fields.

Denonville's "visit" was no isolated instance of the interest of the French in Iroquois country. Count Frontenac (for whom the present hotel in Quebec City is named), after a seven-year recall, was reinstated as Goveror of Canada by Louis XIV in the spring of 1689.

Frontenac was then seventy years of age. Immediately he organized an expedition of some twenty-two hundred troops against the Onondaga Indians. The army reached the north end of Onondaga Lake on August 1, 1689 and with two boats brought from Montreal sailed to Salina. There they started a fort on the 2nd and at daybreak on the 4th marched to the Indian town of Onondaga. It was only eight or nine miles south, but it took them all day to make their way through the forest.

As Frontenac's men emerged from the trees they saw the Onondaga's maize fields stretched

before them for miles. In their midst lay the charred and smoking ruins of the Iroquois capital. The Indians again had burned their town in self defense, a town which the British had previously helped them to fortify.

Here as everywhere the pillage of Indian property by the white man was swift and thorough. Frontenac sent his aide, Vaudreuil, with seven hundred men to destroy the Oneidas to the east in similar fashion. There was some thought of marching on the Cayugas to the west, but they escaped this time when the old Governor found it inexpedient and instead returned home.

So, long before 1700 these pastoral acres amid which I grew up were the scene of pleasant industry and pagan warfare. For three or four more generations it continued to be contested ground among the Iroquois, the French, the British and the Algonquins. For example, there is record of a block house at Clyde, scarce twenty miles from my birthplace, which the French used prior to the French and Indian War (1754–1763). It later came into possession of the British, who used it as a station for smuggling goods from Canada via Sodus Bay. It stood at a point a few rods east of the location of the old New York Central Railroad Station.

The Revolutionary War found white French, Dutch and English patriots fighting white French, Dutch and English loyalists. Each segment of Europeans egged on the Indians to kill and scalp their white enemies. Thus it is that General Sullivan's Campaign stands as the decisive action which permitted the present possession of the territory.

APPENDIX IX

MILITARY RECORDS

MILLITARY RECORDS

MILITARY RECORDS in our family are not voluminous. Save for my brothers, Clarence and John, there is no very complete history; only the listings on military rolls for my father's ancestors and those assembled by my mother for her Revolutionary ancestor. What I have been able to establish is as follows:

French and Indian Wars 1754–1763

Abraham Pratt is listed in Oxford, Massachusetts records as a member of John Chandler's regiment for the invasion of Canada under Lord Jeffrey Amherst in 1758. He was also a member of Capt. McFarland's company in 1761.

The American Revolution 1775–1783

I have been unable to identify Abraham Pratt as a soldier in the Revolutionary War although the listings of two of his younger brothers, Micah and Isaac, appear in *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution.* Abraham had moved to Cambridge by this time while Micah was in Belchertown and Isaac was still in Oxford. In 1775 Abraham was thirty-five years old and had had at least eight children. He probably saw no military service during the War. Mother's Revolutionary ancestor was James Calhoun, her great grandfather.

War of 1812 1812–1814

John Pratt was twenty-seven years old in 1812 but I have found no record of his having been an active soldier. He certainly participated to some extent since the Adjutant and Inspector General paid him for "contingent expenses of the Militia in the War of 1812."

James Calhoun was Captain of Militia in the War of 1812 and was on duty at Sodus Point when it was burned by the British.

John Pratt's brother, Abraham 2nd was appointed Lieutenant of the Militia, Lt. Col. Philatus Swift's regiment for the northern part of Ontario County on March 20, 1804, but since he died before the War was under way, he could hardly have seen active service.

The Civil War 1861–1865

The only inkling of military service I have come across (I have made no thorough search of the records) is that of David Brightman, one of the sons of Rachel Maria Pratt, John Barton's older sister. It is in the form of a photo of a uniformed soldier of the Union Army. My grandfather,

Charles H. Knapp, who was of military age at the time, furnished a substitute. My grandfather, Charles W. Pratt, born in 1850, was of course too young.

World War I 1914–1918

When the United States entered World War I my father was well past thirty years of age, with four children to support. I remember the drill sessions he attended in Williamson, but the War ended before he might have been called up.

World War II 1939–1945

My brothers Clarence and John were the soldiers in our family who fought the war to end wars. Clarence, with a Cornell University ROTC commission, was called to active duty at Fort Niagara on January 28, 1942. He served in the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign, was badly wounded during the invasion of Normandy and spent two of his four years of service in various Army hospitals. He received a field promotion to Captain, was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in battle and emerged with a medical discharge and a permanent disability on January 18, 1946.

John, who was commissioned on May 30, 1940 from the ROTC unit at Cornell University, reported for active duty on September 8, 1940 with the 9th Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He volunteered for the newly forming Paratroopers and was assigned to the 503 Parachute Battalion (later Regiment). As a member of this unit he was sent to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater where he made two combat jumps, fought three campaigns and received the Bronze Star Medal. At the end of the war he accepted a Regular Army commission. He specialized in Military Intelligence and except for a period as an Infantry Battalion commander in Korea, this specialty has kept him rotating between the Pentagon and NATO assignments.

My brother Ernest was in essential War Production throughout the War and my only participation was as a consultant without compensation to the State Department and Treasury in the field of propaganda.

APPENDIX X

ANCESTRAL TABLES

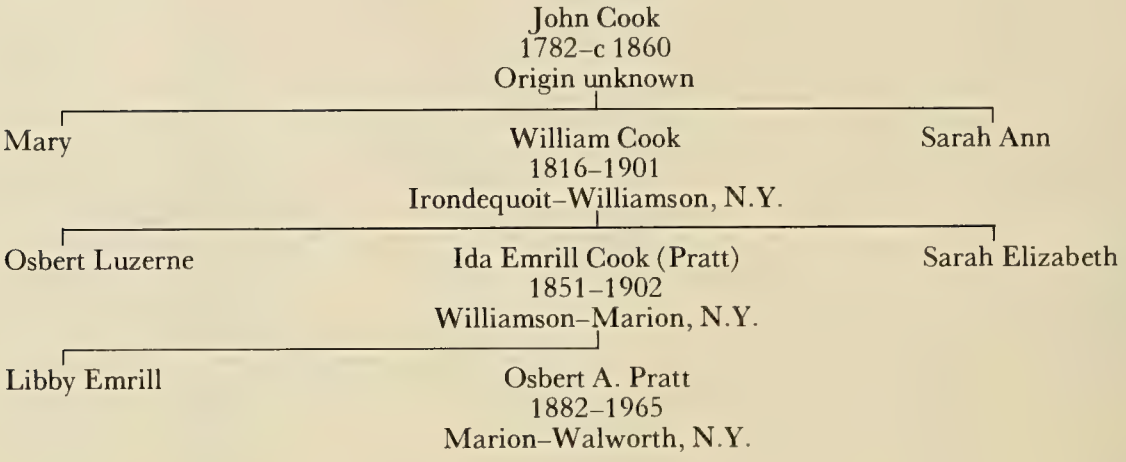
PATERNAL ANCESTRY OF OSBERT A. PRATT

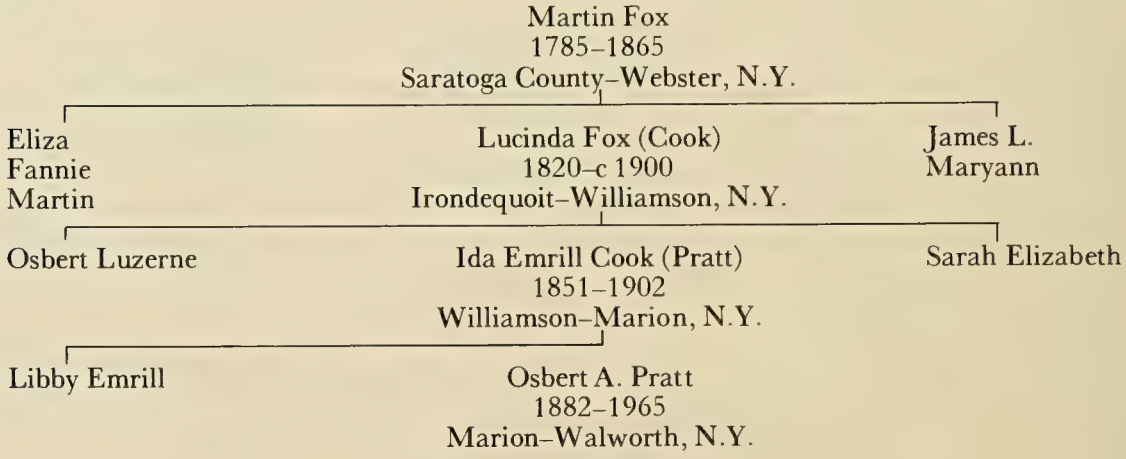
THOMAS PRATT
c 1615–1705/6
London, England–Watertown, Mass.

THOMAS PRATT, JR.
c 1636–1692
Watertown–Framingham, Mass.

Thomas John Joseph Ephraim David	**JONATHAN PRATT** c 1680–1760 Framingham–Oxford, Mass.	Abiel (Fem.) Ebenezer Philip Nathaniel Jabez
Jonathan Sarah Joseph Susannah Abigail	**MICAH PRATT** c 1706/10–1769 Oxford, Mass.	Abraham Jonas Lydia Beulah
Hannah David Asa Isaac Lydia	**ABRAHAM PRATT** 1740–c 1801 Oxford, Mass.–Cambridge, N.Y.	Abraham Micah Mary Melicent
Deborah Abraham Micah Abraham Jacob Darius	**JOHN PRATT** 1785–1871 Cambridge–Marion, N.Y.	Ruth Mary Mary Hiram Ruth Huldah
Mahala Joseph Hiram F. Mary A. William S. Thankful Amy	**JOHN BARTON PRATT** 1820–1906 Marion–Williamson, N.Y.	Horace Catyann Rachel Maria Sarah Emily Henry A.
Alfred E. Addie Lilly	**CHARLES WHITE PRATT** 1850–1924 Williamson, N.Y.	Sarah Imogene
Libbie Emrill	**OSBERT ALFRED PRATT** 1882–1965 Marion–Walworth, N.Y.	
Kenneth Charles 1905 Iva Eleanor 1910 John Barton 1918		Ida Faye 1906 Clarence Osbert 1914 Ernest Alfred 1920

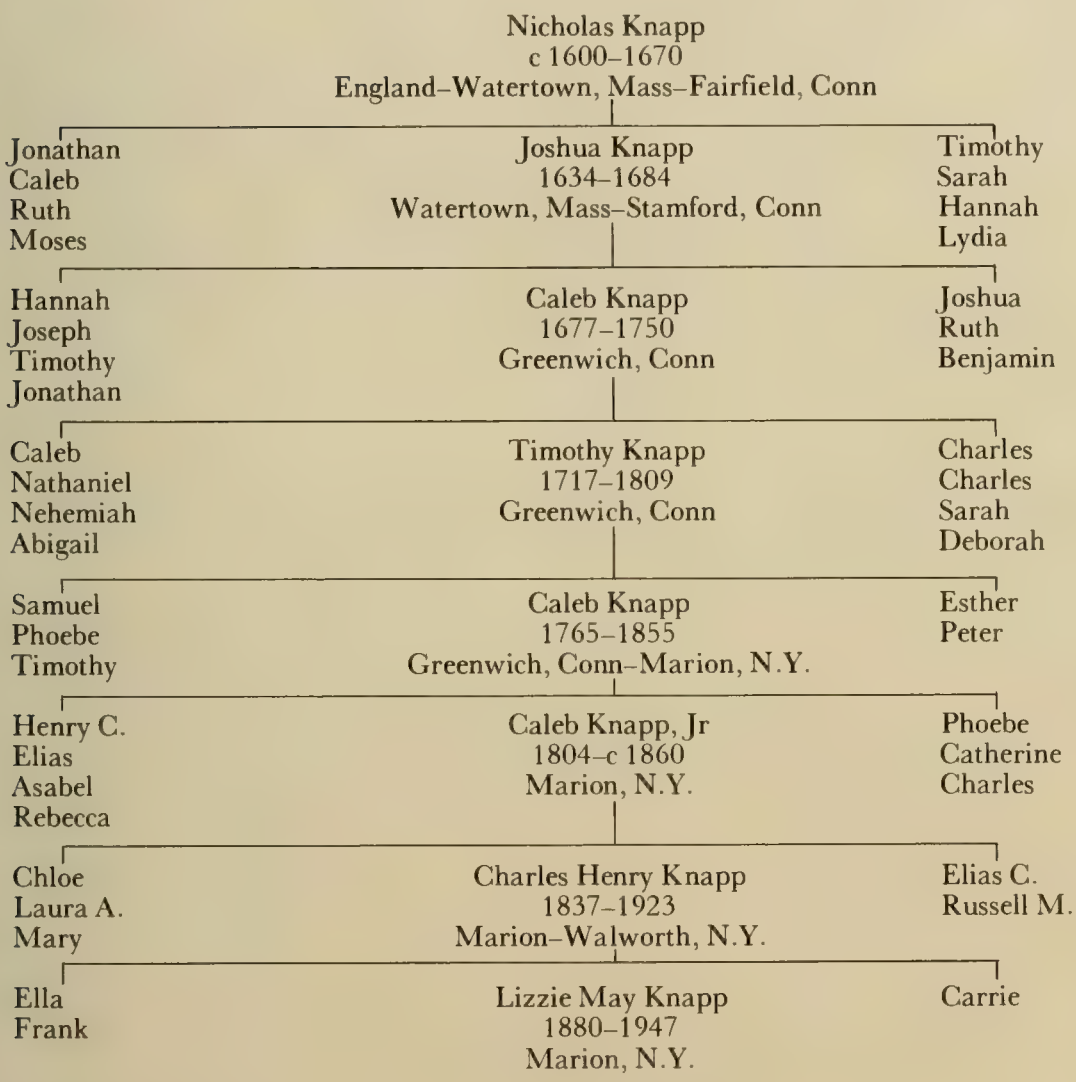
MATERNAL ANCESTRY OF OSBERT A. PRATT





PATERNAL ANCESTRY OF LIZZIE MAY KNAPP

(Compiled by Alfred Averill Knapp, M.D.)



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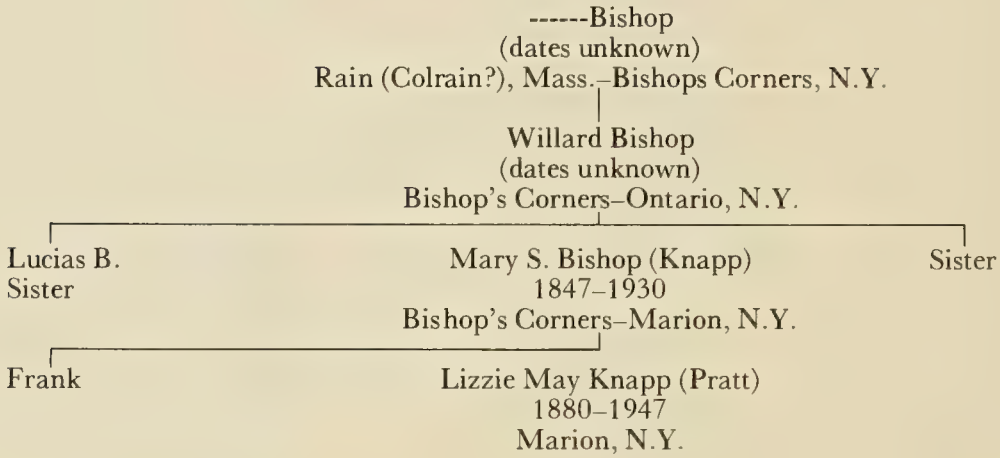
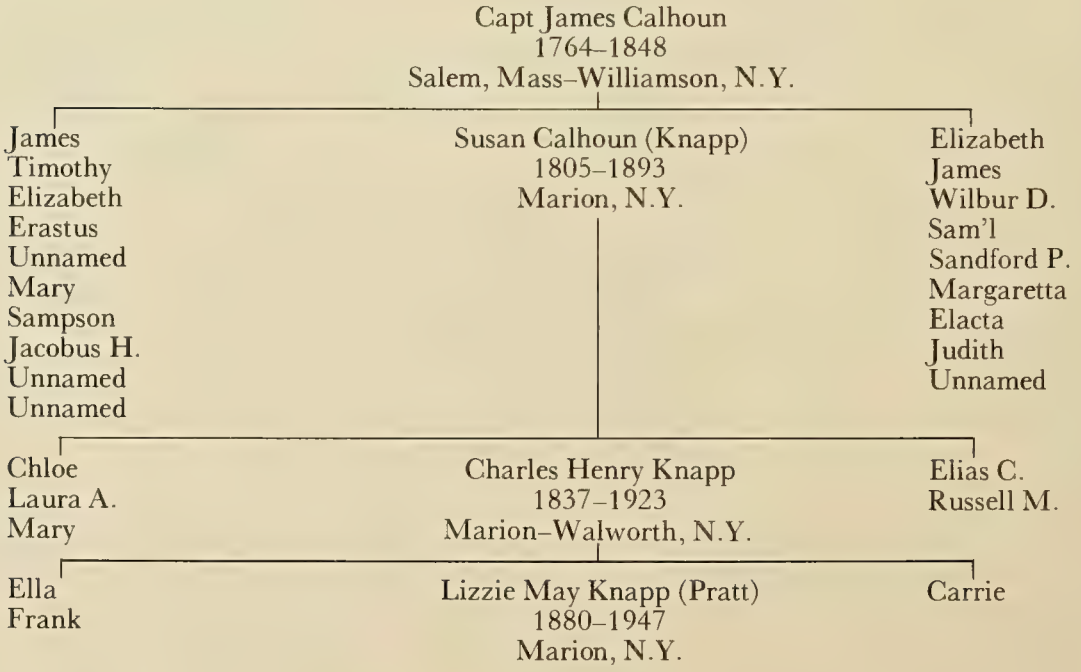


REVOLUTIONARY ANCESTRY OF LIZZIE MAY KNAPP



APPENDIX XI

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

I HAVE FOUND no portraits of any member of these Pratt lines which could be dated prior to about 1860. It was not until the photographic process of portraiture had become well established that people of moderate means were able to afford having their likenesses recorded for posterity.

Six of the old-time, elaborate albums used in the early days of portrait photography have come down in our family. They are ones which belonged to John B. Pratt, Charles W. Pratt, the Cooks, the Fox family, the Knapps, and one stamped "Emrill," my grandmother's middle name. These are supplemented with many cabinetted, mounted and foldered photos of a later age and they are in turn augmented by the considerably later snapshot albums.

Here are a few of the photos selected from among literally hundreds to illustrate points of interest in the foregoing narrative. The oldest one available is that of Old John and his wife, Mary Penwell Pratt.

John and Mary Penwell Pratt, our great, great grandparents, taken about 1860. He was seventy-five, she sixty-seven at the time. They are numbered 15 and 87 respectively in App. IV

John Barton and Nancy Hall Pratt, our great grandparents, taken at the time of their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1896. John was seventy-six, Nancy seventy-three. They are numbered 90 and 195 respectively in App. IV

The only portrait I can identify as another one of Old John Pratt's twelve children. This is Thankful Amy, the youngest, taken in Douglass, Kansas about 1885 when she was fifty-six. She is numbered 96 in App. IV

The Four Generations Photo, taken on October 9, 1911. Nancy Hall Pratt, eighty-eight; Charles White Pratt, sixty-one; Osbert Alfred Pratt, twenty-nine; Kenneth Charles Pratt, six

Charles White and Ida Cook Pratt, our grandparents, taken at the time of their marriage in 1877. They are numbered 197 and 315 respectively in App. IV

Mother and Dad on their honeymoon at Canandaigua Lake in 1904. Dad's number in App. IV is 316. Mother is not listed there since she became a member of the family after 1890

First two children of Lizzie May and Osbert A. Pratt, Kenneth and Faye, taken about 1908

The four younger children, Iva, Clarence, John and Ernest, snapped on the old farm about 1924

The old farmhouse about 1925, where all of the children above lived or visited for almost four decades, from 1911 to 1947

The Mill at Ridge Chapel, built about 1905 and operated by my grandfather and father in the early years of the twentieth century

Mother's relatives assembled for the Knapp Family reunion in 1915. Her mother, Mary Bishop Knapp and father, Charles Henry Knapp are at the extreme ends of the second row from the top. Her own family of six (at that time) is grouped in the right foreground

The last family portrait. It was taken in 1930. Standing, from left: Iva, 1910; John, 1918; Clarence, 1914; Ernest, 1920; Faye, 1906. Seated: Kenneth, 1905; Lizzie, 1880–1947; 'Bert, 1882–1965

APPENDIX XII

COLLATERAL COUSINS

COLLATERAL COUSINS

IN SEARCHING OUT our ancestry it was not my original intention to pursue the myriad lines of collateral relatives, but I soon found that the more I learned about brothers and cousins the clearer and more certain my own lineage became. And besides, these relatives and their records were often interesting in themselves.

For example, records of the children of the second Thomas Pratt (c 1636–1692) lent authenticity to the image of our ancestor, Jonathan (c 1680–1760), one of his youngest sons. Similarly, the records of Jonathan's several children helped to identify his son, Micah (c 1706/10–1769) in time and place.

Jumping to a later generation, one of the first things I learned was the fact that Wesson Pratt was a first cousin to my own great grandfather, John Barton Pratt. Therefore Wesson and John had to be the sons of brothers. Therefore their grandfather had to be the common ancestor of us all. Going backward, that common ancestor turned out to be Abraham, one of the children of Micah Pratt.

When Martha Pratt Wood's old manuscript, Appendix IV in this book, came to light any uncertainty about the lineage disappeared. While we have no photograph of Wesson's father (he died in 1812) we do have those of three generations of cousins which are mementos of the two families. Anyone so inclined easily can add three more generations of cousins by consulting the living descendants of the men who appear opposite.

THREE GENERATIONS OF COUSINS

Right, John Barton Pratt (1820–1906) was a grandson of Abraham Pratt, numbered 1 in App. IV, and son of John Pratt. Far right, Wesson Pratt, numbered 36 in App. IV, (1802–1894) was a grandson of Abraham Pratt and son of Abraham 2nd Pratt, numbered 9 in App. IV. These men were first cousins.

Far left, Charles White Pratt (1850–1924) was a son of John Barton Pratt and, left, Alanson Pratt, numbered 155 in App. IV was a son of Wesson Pratt. Thus they were second cousins stemming from their ancestry in Abraham Pratt

Right, Osbert Alfred Pratt (1882–1965) was the son of Charles White Pratt and, far right, Clarence Raymond Pratt, numbered 288 in App. IV (1866–1950) was a son of Alanson Pratt which made them third cousins in collateral lines of descent from Abraham Pratt

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INDEX

THIS INDEX has been compiled to present as much information as possible to "cousin hunters" with the minimun amount of searching. More than half of the persons named in it are numbered in Appendix IV which starts on page 133. The first reference after each of these names appears as a number within brackets: thus [54]. By referring to the appropriate pages of Appendix IV on which the bracketed numbers appear the reader will quickly discover the name of the person for whom he is looking. He can easily determine where that person stands in the list of the descendants of Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt. He will find also who married whom and, in many cases, the name or names of the children. Carrying this same bracketed number forward to Appendix V which starts on page 151 additional information, including vital statistics and the kinship to Abraham and Mary Barton Pratt, will be found for most of these names. Additional page references are also given in many cases.

Abbreviations used in this index are: b born, m married, d died, c *circa* (about), l lived or living. Thus b c means born about the year given. When only a single date is definitely known it appears with the appropriate lower case suffix; where dates of birth and death are known both are given.

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ADDENDUM

WHEN THIS BOOK was in production we discovered the record of Mary Barton Pratt's birth. (See Acknowledgements; also Charlton, page 18.) She was born in Sutton, Massachusetts, adjoining Oxford, on June 11, 1742, the second of ten children of Edmund and Anna Flynt Barton. Her parents were married in Salem, Massachusetts on April 9, 1739 and moved to Sutton soon thereafter.